Gov't troops capture 13 Abus in Jolo clash

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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MAY HILING LANG NA KABAYO !

Manero set to surrender

Estrada housing project collapsing

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE FIVE-STORY tenements that ousted President Joseph Estrada built three years ago for squatters still don't have toilets and running water.

Residents get their water supply from deep wells.

Most relieve themselves behind abandoned tractors, bulldozers and trailers near the buildings.

Some, like Lola Delia, prefer to go to Sitio Arienda, a 20-minute walk from the tenements, to answer the "call of nature."

Used plywood and paperboard, covered with campaign posters of two administration candidates married to movie stars, serve as makeshift doors and window shutters.

Plastic pipes for electric wires snake up to nowhere.

With a lot of fanfare, Estrada inaugurated 16 apartment buildings at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Resettlement Area in Taytay, Rizal, on April 19, 1999 on his 62nd birthday.

The tenements, 12 of which are occupied by former squatters from Estrada's hometown, are located in Phase 3 of the resettlement area that Estrada put up in 1985.

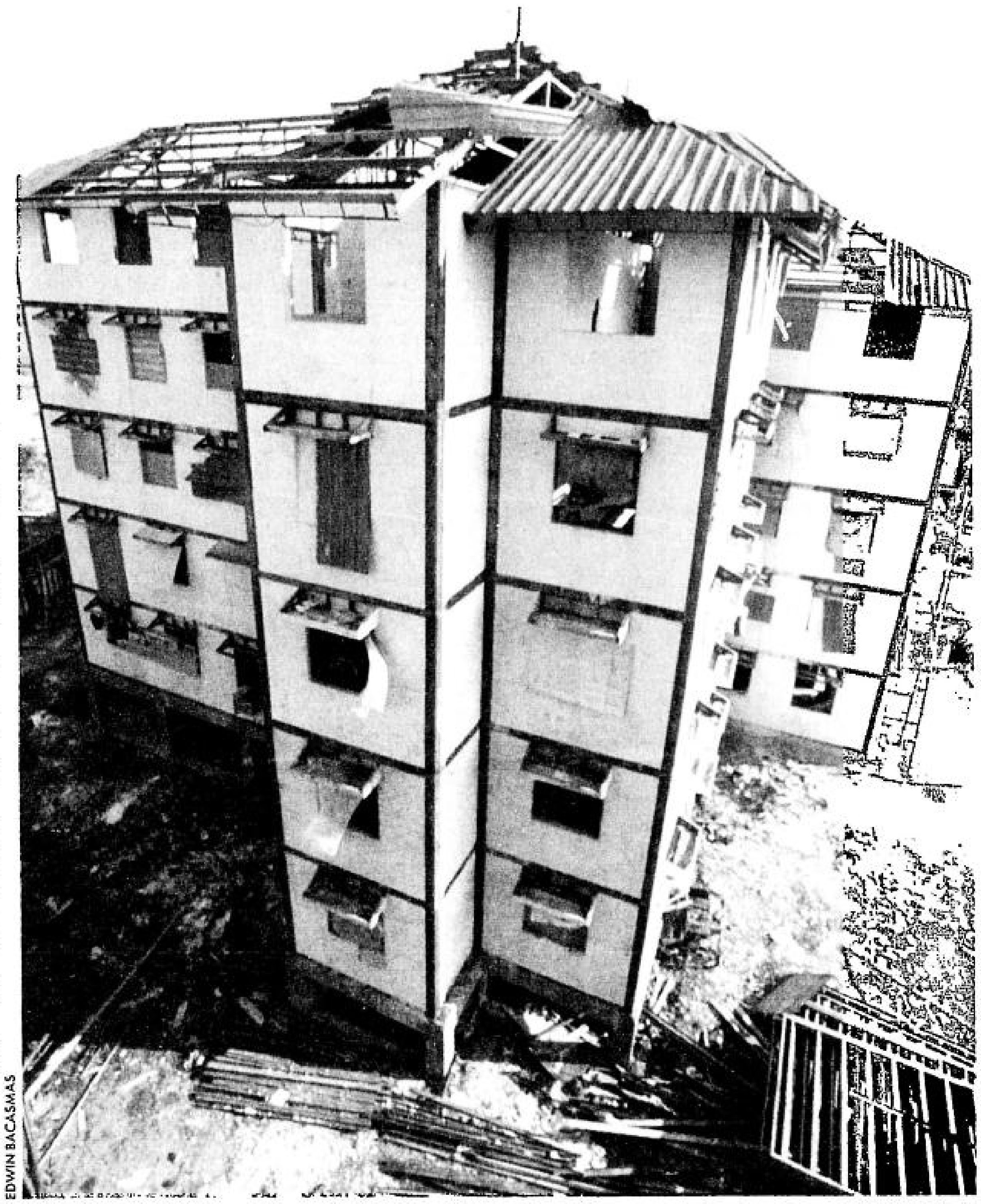
At least 16 families, who moved to the area only last December and are scattered in the four remaining tenements, fear the buildings might collapse.

The structures shake when a car passes through the narrow concrete streets of the resettlement area, said Pina Pergis, a mother of five.

San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada refused to talk about the project, or reveal its contractor.

"Nakakatakot kung sa nakaka-

ESTRADA/ A4


EDWIN BACASMAS

TO former squatters of San Juan, it's still shantytown at the San Lorenzo Ruiz resettlement area in Taytay, Rizal.

Dureza: No demands from priest butcher

BY CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

NO DEMANDS this time, just one highly unusual request.

Fugitive priest killer Norberto Manero Jr. has volunteered to surrender "within the next few days" with no conditions, according to Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, who met with Manero for three hours on Saturday afternoon.

But the convicted murderer of Italian missionary Tullio Favali made a special request: to be allowed to bring along his "lucky charm"—a newly orphaned foal that he rescued and named "PA Jess" after Presidential Assistant Dureza—when he turns himself in.

The Macapagal aide, who met with the escaped convict on a farm in the hinterlands of South Cotabato, told the INQUIRER that "we never discussed his demands. He made no demands."

It was not clear why Manero, the target of a police manhunt, had suddenly agreed to give himself up and had abandoned four previous conditions for his surrender.

"It's a voluntary effort on his part to return" to jail, Dureza said. "He said he escaped because he was just mad at how his (1977 murder) case turned out, and he felt like he was getting a raw deal."

During their meeting—which took place in a hut in the middle of a cornfield—the two merely discussed the "scenario of his return" to prison, Dureza said.

Manero assured him he would contact the presidential assistant soon via his cellular phone to give the go signal.

"I left him my cell phone number. When he calls, I'll go and pick him up," Dureza said of the surren-

MANERO/ A5

ARAW NG KAGITINGAN

War veteran sang her way to freedom

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—Milagros Estacio Tan, 70, remembers in grisly detail many atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

Yet, she says, there was a humane side to the enemy that was little known.

Captured by the Japanese for their guerrilla activities, Milagros and her father Brigido were released unharmed after two months in captivity.

What was the tradeoff? The Japanese officers made Milagros—then 12, skinny but already gifted with a cool, stirring voice—sing her way to freedom.

"This was in 1942, between November and December because the nights were cold. Every night, I sang for hours at the *Bahay na Malaki*

WAR/ A20

Prospects of Erap going to jail early not bright

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

THE MORE important question that exercises the nation today is not whether the people will rise in revolt if deposed President Joseph Estrada is locked in jail but whether he will ever see the inside of a jail at all.

Jail or not, a revolt is a pipe dream conjured up by desperate people. A revolt is even less of a threat, the reason being that there are two scenarios helping Estrada—an escape and a ponderous judicial system that is well known for its propensity to accommodate the delaying tactics of lawyers exploiting legal technicalities.

The prospects, therefore, of this country ever sending a former leader for the first time in history for abuse of power and wrongdoings are not as bright as the impatient citizens' desire to have a speedy trial of Estrada on charges of plunder and corrupt practices.

People Power II may have deposed another president in 15 years but it has not changed our political culture, no matter what President Macapagal-Arroyo claims about the

PROSPECTS/ A20

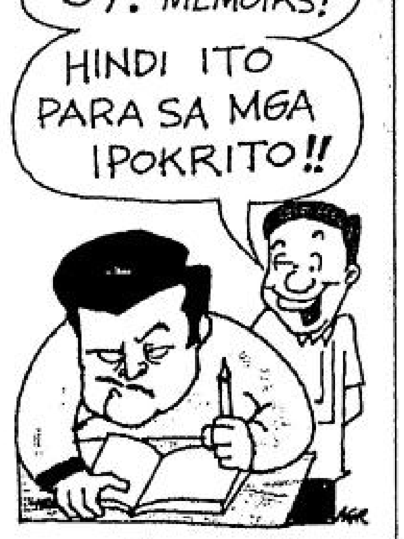
A meditative role for Erap on Holy Week

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

THIS Holy Week may see a meditative Joseph Estrada sitting down to write his memoirs, but it may take a while longer before he is ready to call the Catholic Church his friend.

Asked how he planned to spend his Holy Week, the deposed president said in Filipino: "I will just meditate

MEDITATIVE/ A21


UY! MEMOIRS!
HINDI ITO PARA SA MGA IPOKRITO!!
AGR

NDF peace panelists here

BY TJ BURGONIO
AND MA. CERES P. DOYO

"THE ATMOSPHERE is good for the resumption of peace talks."

Thus spoke Luis Jalandoni, chair of the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), who arrived in Manila yesterday afternoon from The Hague, Netherlands, along with senior NDF panel adviser Antonio Zumel and their wives Coni Ledesma and Ruth de Leon.

The four are visiting the country for a solidarity conference on peace on April 18 that will be hosted by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"The purpose of the gathering is to show the NDF and the whole world that the Philippines is ready to take any step that will arrive at a peace settlement," chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III told the ABS-CBN TV network.

Since she took power on Jan. 20, President Macapagal-Arroyo has sought to resume peace talks with communist rebels and with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Jalandoni and Zumel said they would be glad to meet with Ms Macapagal in the solidarity conference "to promote peace."

The President and the NDF leaders are scheduled to speak at the conference.

Back from a long exile in the Netherlands, former newspaperman Zumel said he was happy to be back.

NDF/ A21

MEMBERS of the National Democratic Front peace panel arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. From left: Luis Jalandoni, Coni Ledesma, Antonio Zumel (in wheelchair) and Ruth de Leon. ROGER MARGALLO

Malaria and other war tales

BY M/SGT. NEPTALI G. GASENDO JR.

EDITOR'S Note: The author was a 20-year-old Army trainee when he was called to active service at the outbreak of World War II. Stationed at Camp O'Donnel in Tarlac, he was appointed news editor of the camp's newspaper and was thus well-abreast of developments at the time. The following are excerpts from his booklet, "Vignettes From World War II," which was published on the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the war 10 years ago.

AT THE height of the battle for Bataan, a malaria epidemic was ravaging the Usaffe (US Armed Forces in the Far East) forces on the entire peninsula. Our medical unit tents were never empty of malaria cases, which felled old and young soldiers alike, and whose tenacity was no respecter of age, rank or status.

A malaria victim is a sight to behold. In spite of the hot tropical weather in the forested jungles of Bataan, it being summer at its hottest, a malaria victim shakes from chills and fever, from head to foot, perspiring profusely yet jaws shivering from the cold. And no amount of securing the victim to his cot could stop the continuous shaking.

Our tents in the medical unit were always busy. Recuperating

MALARIA/ A20

GANYAN! PARA MATAPOS NA ANG KALOKOHAN NG MGA YAN!!!

13 Abus seized in Jolo clash

Southcom chief: They were caught flat-footed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops captured 13 Moro rebels in a clash with a rearguard unit of the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas holding US hostage Jeffrey Schilling, the military said yesterday.

The encounter early on Saturday in a village of Talipao town on Jolo island took place several kilometers from the village where Schilling is believed to be held, military officials said.

It was the first clash between soldiers and the Abu Sayyaf since President Macapagal-Arroyo on April 2 ordered an all-out offensive against the group operating in the jungles of Jolo.

The rebels had threatened to behead Schilling last Thursday after Manila rejected their demand for a Saudi Arabian diplomat to negotiate with them. The group later said it had postponed its plan to execute the American to allow a chance for talks.

By stealth and under cover of darkness, Army commandos broke through the guerrillas' outer defenses early on Saturday, seized several houses they occupied and captured 13 rebels, wounding one after a gunbattle, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling told reporters.

He said a number of rebels escaped, and the government suffered no casualties.

"They were caught flat-footed by our forces," Camiling said. "The President called me personally and said she was happy with the result."

In a separate operation, soldiers on Saturday occupied an abandoned Abu Sayyaf base on Basilan island, near Jolo.

The Abu Sayyaf professes to fight for an Islamic state in the South of the mainly Roman Catholic country, but its main occupation appears to be kidnap for ransom.

Schilling was among more than 40 foreign and Filipino hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf last year from two neighboring Malaysian isles and from Jolo.

All of the hostages have been released—most after the payment of huge ransoms while some escaped—except for Schilling and Filipino Roland Ullah.

Schilling has been in rebel hands for more than seven months.

Ms Macapagal has refused to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf, calling the group "bandits and terrorists.". *Reuters*

A YOUNG Tausug looks at the camera at a checkpoint manned by the MNLF in Patikul town on Jolo island.

AFP waging hi-tech war vs Abus

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military will be waging a high-tech, all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu and Basilan.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, Task Force Janus spokesperson, said aside from sending in soldiers who are veterans in the war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, government troops pursuing the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu provinces will use "high-tech weaponry that can even be used during night encounters."

"We have the night vision (goggles) and the snipers' rifles," he said.

"The intention here is to engage directly with the Abu Sayyaf and not indiscriminately fire against the innocent civilians," he added.

Narcise clarified reports that government forces were closing in on the Abu Sayyaf.

"In the first place, we are not engaging them in an open battle. Our approach is guerrilla-type because these Abu Sayyaf bandits are highly mobile. So we are not closing in. We are pursuing them. The soldiers' movement, too, is very mobile," he said.

Narcise identified the military units pursuing the Moro rebels as the 103rd and 104th Army Brigades, the Naval Forces South and the 3rd Air Wing support, a battalion of Marine soldiers, two battalions of Scout Rangers and soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division.

Supt. Ahmadul Pangambayan, Basilan police chief, earlier reported that "terrified villagers have fled for safety" for fear of being caught in the crossfire between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

But Narcise said there have been no encounters so far in Basilan.

"These bandits are running from one place to another, evading our soldiers," he said.

Meanwhile, relatives of kidnapped barangay chair Jovito McLintock urged the military in Basilan to "tone down" its operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

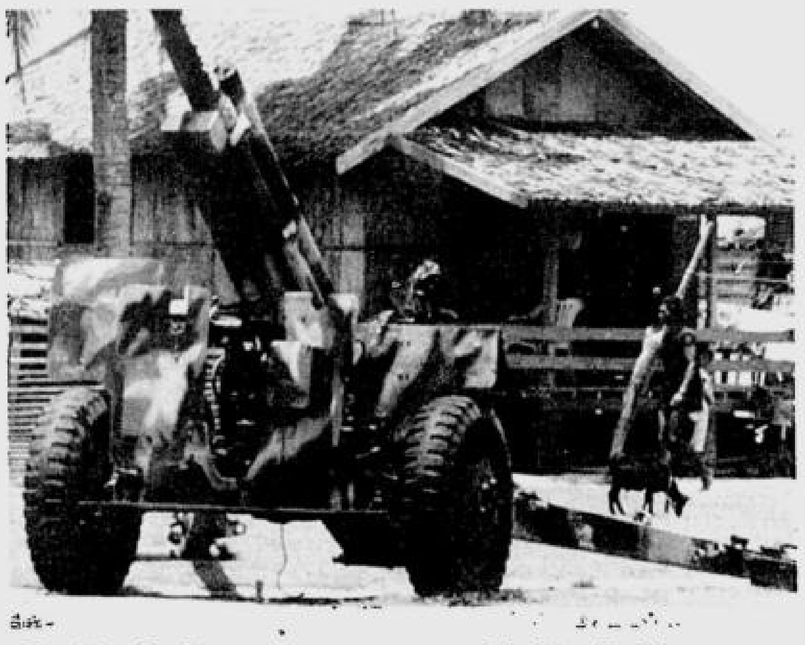
McLintock was kidnapped by armed men in Barangay Maloong-San Jose in Lamitan town on March 19. "We fear for our father's life. His captors might be mistaken for Abu Sayyaf bandits. We hope that they will tone down or maybe stop the operation for a while," Jonette McLintock-Hassan, the victim's daughter, said.

Hassan said her father-in-law is now negotiating with her father's kidnappers "and they were asking for ransom."

The McLintocks are expecting the release of the barangay chair within the week.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last week ordered an all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf who are still holding captive American Jeffrey Schilling and Filipino Roland Ullah.

An Abu Sayyaf faction led by Abu Ahmad Salayuddin alias Abu Sabaya earlier threatened to behead Schilling but suspended its plan in favor of negotiations. *With a report from Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



A 105 mm cannon sits in position in Patikul,Sulu, where an Abu Sayyaf camp headed by Commander Sajiron Radulan is based. The military has poured troops and war materiel into the area for an all-out push against the Abu Sayyaf.

DENNIS SABANGAN

3 kidnapped kids rescued by police in Lanao, Sulu

By D. M. Veridiano

POLICE said yesterday they had rescued over the weekend three children who had been kidnapped and held hostage in Mindanao.

Two of the victims, a brother and sister, had each been sold for P1,500 while the third, a 4-year-old boy, had been held hostage for almost 15 months.

The boy, identified as Cristopher Basario, was seized in Divisoria, Manila, on Dec. 13, 1999 and was rescued in Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte, by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force.

The two other children—Isa Cerilo, 7, and Alvin Cerilo, 6—who were abducted near their home at Barangay San Roque, Zamboanga City, on March 26, were rescued in Jolo, Sulu, by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza said the rescue would not have been successful without the cooperation of the victims' families.

Basario was immediately restored to his family who live in the small community inside the Cultural Center Complex on Roxas Boulevard. The boy did not show any signs of trauma when he was turned over to his mother, identified only as Maria Teresa, by PAOCTF Director Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

The boy, who can barely speak Filipino, has become fluent in Maranao after living for the past 15 months in a Maranao community. He was barely 2 years old when he was abducted.

Ebdane said kidnap-for-ransom charges will be filed against Likad Saripada Raurak, 30; Raga Saripada Mamantak, 27; and Coli Ato Mauntol, 60. The three women were unrepentant when they were presented to the media yesterday.

Raurak admitted asking Basario's parents for ransom money.

She said the boy had been left in her care by a friend.

Raurak said the friend, who had left to take up a job in Saudi Arabia, had not been sending money for the kid's allowance, prompting her to ask Basario's parents for money in exchange for taking care of him.

The Cerilo siblings were kidnapped near their home at Barangay San Roque, Zamboanga City, on March 26.

CIDG director Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto identified the suspect as Rassaam Andilin Hakil, a Tausug. Hakil was also allegedly responsible for taking the two children to Jolo, Sulu, where they were sold to two different families. He was arrested about eight days after the abduction. Two days after his arrest, the children were recovered.

Isa was reportedly sold to a certain Ibnihasim Abdurajak while Alvin was sold to a certain Ebin Asara. Both families resided in Barangay Bilaan, Talipao, Sulu.

On April 2, Abdurajak reported to the police that he had bought a child for only P1,500 from a Tausug he identified as Hakil. He also reported that another child, younger than the one sold to him, had been sold to a neighbor for the same amount.

Joint teams from the 9th CIDG Jolo Mobile Police Force and intelligence operatives from the Sulu Provincial Police launched a manhunt for Hakil who was arrested inside the Serantes Market in Jolo.

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ANGELA PEREZ-BARAQUIO

Fil-Am Miss America in Manila

MISS America 2001, the Filipino American Angela Perez-Baraquio, is in town, visiting the home country of her parents for the first time.

Baraquio, who is the first Miss America of Asian and Filipino descent, will be meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo and visiting her paternal grandfather and other members of her Filipino family whom she has never met.

"This is a dream come true for me and my family, and I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Northwest Airlines, the Department of Tourism, the Miss America Organization and many other people who have made this trip possible," said Baraquio in a press statement sent by the Miss America organizers.

Baraquio who arrived last April 1 and will be staying until April 13, is being accompanied by her parents, Claude and Letty Baraquio, who emigrated to Hawaii more than 30 years ago.

"I'm looking forward to taking in sights and sounds of Manila and to becoming better acquainted with the culture and the people of my parent's home country," she said.

As part of the visit, Baraquio will visit the White Cross Children's Home, a Manila orphanage supported by Northwest Airlines and tour Nayong Pilipino.

Gloria: Gov't won't intervene to shore up peso

THE GOVERNMENT will not intervene in the spot market to help shore up the weak peso, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

In a statement, Arroyo stressed the peso's weakness against the US dollar was "an effect of international market forces" including the overall weakness of regional currencies led by the Japanese yen and the Thai baht.

The Philippine unit closed at P50.20 to the greenback on Friday after hitting an 11-week low of 50.175 on Thursday.

The statement said Manila "will not intervene in the decline of the peso" but will instead focus on subsidy programs to help farmers and other businesses.

"What is important is that our people continue to have relief and that our people will not feel the pinch at their level," Ms Macapagal said. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, April 9, 2001
Monday of Holy Week

1st Reading:	*Is 42:1-7*
Gospel:	*Jn 12:1-11*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where he had raised Lazarus, the dead man, to life. Now they gave a dinner for him, and while Martha waited on them, Lazarus sat at the table with Jesus.

Then Mary took a pound of costly perfume made from genuine nard and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Judas, son of Simon Iscariot—the disciple who was to betray Jesus—remarked, "This perfume could have been sold for three hundred silver coins and turned over to the poor." Judas, indeed, had no concern for the poor; he was a thief and as he held the common purse, he used to help himself to the funds.

But Jesus spoke up, "Leave her alone. Was she not keeping it for the day of my burial? (The poor you always have with you, but you will not always have me.)"

Many Jews heard that Jesus was there and they came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests thought about killing Lazarus as well, for many of the Jews were drifting away because of him and believing in Jesus.

Commentary

How pathetic is the state of Jesus' enemies! Their deadly jealousy of Jesus led them even to scheme the death of Lazarus, the sign of his intent for humanity—life. Jesus' generosity is contaminating. Lazarus and his sisters gave him a party, unafraid of being implicated with him. Mary anointed him profusely with a costly perfume, signifying the costly self-sacrifice of Jesus' life. God's generosity impels human generosity. A clear condemnation of the miserly and the greedy, who accumulate everything for themselves at the expense of God's poor.

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Catholics laud GMA for ban on 'Live Show'

BY D. S. CUETO

THE CATHOLIC Laity called on President Macapagal-Arroyo Saturday, praising and pledging support for her because of her decision to ban the movie "Live Show."

"They were very happy that they have a very religious woman as their President," the President said recalling the visit Saturday.

She said other Catholic religious groups had also expressed support for her moral regeneration program for the government and the country.

She said the members of the laity were "very pleased" with the permanent banning of the controversial movie "Live Show."

The President herself described the movie as "soft porn."

The Malacañang Appeals Committee last week upheld the President's move to ban the movie, permanently revoking its permit for public exhibition.

Handling of Erap case: 'As fast as possible, as slow as necessary'

BY ESTANISLAO CALDEZ AND KIRA ESPINO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Amid fears that the criminal charges against deposed President Joseph Estrada would take years to decide, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena said he would handle the two Estrada cases assigned to his division swiftly but very carefully.

"I shall handle the two cases... as fast as possible but as slow as necessary," Garchitorena, in a visit here on Saturday, told the INQUIRER.

On Thursday, the Sandiganbayan raffled off to the court's five divisions the eight criminal cases filed against Estrada, including the nonbailable charge of plunder.

The Sandiganbayan's first division chaired by Garchitorena would handle Case No. 26561, in which Estrada is accused of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and Case No. 26566, in which former presidential legislative liaison officer Jose Jaime Policarpio is charged with indirect bribery.

Garchitorena was here as guest speaker of the two-day seminar for the eucharistic ministers of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao.

"If arrested, ousted President Estrada must be treated like any other ordinary prisoner, deprived of his physical liberty, luxuries and special treatment. By law, all prisoners must be treated similarly without special privileges. This will be true also with the former first lady, Dr. Luisa Ejercito, and their son, (San Juan Mayor) Jinggoy Estrada," he said.

Estrada's co-respondents in Case No. 26562 are the former first lady, Jinggoy Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas.

Garchitorena said he would immediately study the two cases assigned to his division based on the documents submitted.

In Ilocos Norte, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said there was no strong evidence of Estrada's guilt that would prevent him from being allowed to post bail.

Santiago was in Laoag City yesterday with the senatorial candidates of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa.

Santiago, a former regional trial court judge, explained that a bail hearing would enable the court to determine whether there is strong evidence of guilt and that would be the basis for the denial for bail.

She said that under the Constitution, an accused is always entitled to bail unless in "very, very serious charges like plunder."

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, another candidate of the PnM, predicted that the government would have a hard time prosecuting Estrada on the plunder charges as he would be tried in a court where the rules are stricter.

"It's not a sure case. It's not a cut-and-dried case for the government," said Enrile.

"They will be governed by the rules of court and by the strict rules of evidence. We will see the brilliance of government prosecutors because the cases would be heard inside the courtroom. The witnesses cannot anymore resort to drama, to act as if they were actors and actresses," he said.

Enrile and Santiago were judges in the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada.

Enrile said the issue in the plunder case is whether Estrada pocketed funds from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

"Plunder happens when the one in power raids the public coffers. If a president, for example, embezzles P100 million from a bank, you won't charge him for plunder, that's estafa," he said.

"If a president accepts commissions, that's not plunder because the money didn't come from the public coffers," he added.

The plunder case, also known as Case No. 26558, against Estrada has been assigned to the Sandiganbayan's third division chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—**Abuse of superior strength**—Abuse of superior strength cannot be appreciated against the appellants. It must be stressed that this circumstance must be established by clear and categorical evidence. There must exist proof that the attackers deliberately took advantage of their superior strength, their apparent superiority in number vis-à-vis that of the victim, notwithstanding. The records showed no such proof. In the present case, the lone eye witness did not see how the aggressors attacked the victim. There was no clear proof as to how appellants took advantage of their combined strength in committing the crime. What should be considered, as regards this aggravating circumstance, is not that there were three, four or more assailants as against one victim, but whether the aggressors took advantage of their combined strength in order to consummate the offense. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Bonito, G.r. No. 128002, October 10, 2000]

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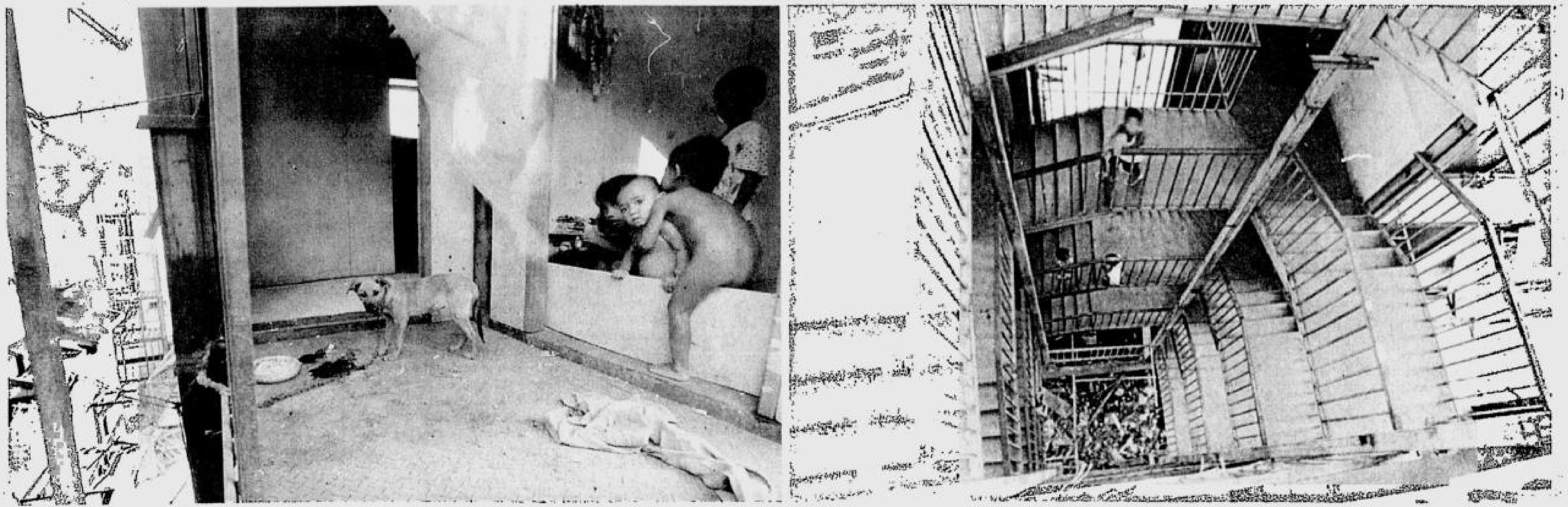

CONDITIONS are also blighted inside the unfinished tenement buildings, including a maze of less-secured stairways at the San Lorenzo resettlement site in Taytay.

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Estrada . . .

(From page A1)

takot (ang pagtira sa mga tenements). Pero dinadaan na lang namin sa dasal. Sana 'wag lang lumindol (We are afraid to stay here. So we just pray and hope that an earthquake would spare us)," Lola Delia Tadaya, 55, a part-time carpenter, said.

More than the fear of earthquake, Lola Delia and her neighbors fear that the new government may not lift a finger to ease their plight. Their reason: they're Erap's people.

"Despite the condition (of the tenements), we are deeply grateful to President Estrada," Pergis, 28, said. "He was the only President who gave us a house."

They are the newest and perhaps the most unfortunate residents of the 18-hectare resettlement area which is home to more than 10,000 families, mostly from San Juan.

The residents have vowed to prevent the disgraced President from being arrested even if it should mean sacrificing their own lives.

Thirty-eight families were evacuated from the nearby Sitio Arienda last December after their houses, a mix of worn-out plywood and rusty galvanized iron sheets, were washed away by floods.

Rizal provincial officials had asked them to stay in the unfinished tenements.

Of the 38 families who moved into the tenements, only 16 remained. The rest returned to the ruins of their previous homes.

While most of those from San Juan bask in the comfort of their own concrete bungalows, the newcomers are packed like sardines in the tenements.

At daytime, driveways are filed with children playing hide-and-seek among the abandoned heavy equipment. The mothers gossip while their husbands are out to work.

Residents prefer to stay outside than endure the intense heat in the tenements.

In the buildings, rusty stairs lead to the rooms. Over time, residents have memorized the labyrinthine passageways of the tenements.

The stairs are supported by steel fences on either side to prevent occupants from accidentally plunging to their death. But the steps in themselves are treacherous. A number of children nearly fell when their legs slipped into holes in the iron steps, said Lola Delia.

Nothing to steal

Security, however, is the least of their concern.

"*Hindi kami takot sa magnanakaw dahil wala namang mananakaw dito* (We don't fear thieves because they have nothing to steal from us)," Lola Delia said.

In the evening, the tenements are dark and the air is thick with mosquitoes.

The local government has cut off electricity after occupants failed to pay their bills. Some residents rely on "jumpers" (illegal electric connections). Occupants make minimal use of candles for fear that fire would raze their homes.

Those without "jumpers" buy *katol* (mosquito coils) to ward off the insects.

"*Kailangang magtiis. 'Pag kagat ng dilim dapat tulog na. 'Yung mga kailangang mag-aral, sa umaga lang nagbabasa* (We must endure. Everyone should be in bed by twilight. Those who need to study could read in the morning)," Lola Delia said.

Most miserable

Life is most miserable when it rains, especially in the evening.

Water leaks from broken roofs and gutters, drenching all the rooms of the five-story tenements, said Pergis.

Occupants have no choice but to stay in the few dry places and curse the night away.

In the morning, they wake up with sunlight hurting their eyes because their windows have remained unfinished.

Residents were told that lack of funds stalled the completion of the tenements, the showcase of the Estrada resettlement area.

They could not expect their hero to save the day for them, especially now that he is facing criminal charges before the Sandiganbayan.

They could only hope that the Macapagal administration could see this side of the metropolis where Filipinos, not just Erap supporters, live a hand-to-mouth existence.

So far, not one local official has paid them a visit.

"*Handa kaming umalis dito kung kinakailangan. Pero sana matulungan kami ng pamahalaan. Sana makahanap kami ng ikabubuhay at tunay na tahanan* (If necessary, we can leave. But we hope the government can help us. We hope we can find jobs and a home we can call our own)," Lola Delia said.

In the meantime, residents could only wish senatorial candidates Ralph Recto and Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan could help them.

Manero set to surrender

(From page A1)

der scenario.

Manero, however, will not be returned to the Sarangani Provincial Jail, from which he escaped on March 22, Dureza said. Instead, he will be detained in a penal institution near Sarangani, where he is being tried for the alleged abduction and murders of brothers Ali and Mambatawatan Mamalumpong.

Dureza said he told Manero in a phone conversation before their Saturday meeting that "you're in no position to make demands because you are a fugitive."

But Dureza conceded that "that if you want something within the law, that can be done."

Trip to the hills

If all goes according to plan, this will be Manero's third surrender and third "return to jail" since he and seven others were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987 for the 1985 murder of Favali in Tulunan, North Cotabato.

Dureza said that on late Saturday afternoon, he, Manero's brother Artemio and lawyer Rogelio Garcia, former Datu Paglas Mayor Toto Paglas, and Dureza's brother Jimmy went in two vehicles to the farm in the hills of South Cotabato.

Dureza noted that Manero had no armed bodyguards and that the only firearm they saw during their trip to his hideout was "an air rifle slung on the shoulder of a farmer on a carabao."

Wearing shorts

Dureza said Manero showed up at the hut wearing shorts and apologized for not being there to greet them on their arrival.

He said the escaped inmate asked him if it would be possible for him to take the young horse with him upon his surrender.

Manero told the Macapagal aide that he rescued the newly born foal after it fell off a cliff. Its mother died after jumping after her offspring, Dureza quoted him as saying.

With Manero was wife Julie Yee, who was earlier accused of having helped Manero escape, an allegation she has repeatedly denied.

Dureza said Yee told him she would "stick it out with Bucay" (Manero's nickname) because she also facilitated her surrender in 1992.

Rotting in jail

He said that his meeting with the escaped convict was preceded by a meeting in General Santos City with "VicVic" Garcia, Manero's new lawyer.

The legal counsel said that Manero's chief complaint was that the court had postponed hearings in the Mambatawatan case 15 times because the prosecution was unable to produce any witnesses.

Manero felt that the court should have ruled after the hearing was postponed 15 times, according to Dureza.

He "thought that since the judge could not make a decision, he had better get out of jail . . . he thought that he was rotting in jail," he said.

Manero, who reportedly believes that the charges will be dismissed, escaped from his jail cell six days after the last hearing was moved to May 7.

The prosecution had earlier presented two witnesses to testify against Manero, but one of them, the victims' sister, Joanna, recanted her testimony late last year.

The other witness was presented only once and was never cross-examined.

Going nowhere

Dureza said Manero had complained that the court process seemed to be going nowhere.

"He wants the application of the law. The legal process (should be) applied to him in the same manner it's applied to you and I," Dureza told the INQUIRER.

Two days after his escape, Julie Yee relayed to jail officials Manero's four conditions for his surrender, including the restoration of his 1999 pardon.

Manero also demanded the speedy trial of the cases of all inmates at the Sarangani Provincial Jail, the speedy trial of his own case, and the lifting of a suspension order issued against the Sarangani jail warden and three other jail guards.

MANERO

Missed death by 7 months

Manero escaped from the Juan Acenas sub-colony of the Davao Prison and Penal Farm on May 13, 1992 but it wasn't until the following October that his escape was made public.

Around that time, Rep. Gregorio Andolana, lawyer of the Diocese of Kidapawan, filed charges of murder, attempted murder and arson against Manero and his group in relation to the Favali killing.

Manero and seven others were sentenced to life imprisonment on Sept. 4, 1987 for the brutal murder.

The judge implied in his ruling that the convicts would have been sentenced to death—but the 1987 Constitution had abolished that penalty seven months earlier.

Of all the convicts, it was only Manero who was meted out another penalty for arson for having set on fire Favali's motorcycle. He was penalized further for evasion of service of sentence following his May 1992 escape.

But he was the first in his group whose sentence was commuted in February 1998 under the Ramos administration, and the first among them to be granted conditional pardon by then President Joseph Estrada in December 1999.

Manero left the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa on Dec. 28, 1999.

His pardon was made public only in early February, through an INQUIRER report that surprised even Estrada.

Prisoner 357

The public uproar that followed forced Estrada to revoke the pardon.

One of the conditions for a grant of pardon, however, is that the convict must have no pending warrant of arrest, and Manero faced arrest for the 1977 charges.

The case was archived in 1981 because Manero and his common-law wife at the time, Leonarda Lacson alias Kumander Inday, had escaped from military custody.

On Feb. 9 last year, Manero arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport II from General Santos City, accompanied by then live-in partner Evelyn Silvestre. The couple left the airport in a Mercedes Benz.

On Feb. 23, 2000, the Department of Justice recommended that Estrada recall Manero's conditional pardon on the basis of the convict's failure to disclose the standing warrant for his arrest.

On Feb. 24, Manero was reported missing and a nationwide manhunt was ordered.

Manero surrendered to then Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson in Manila on Feb. 25, and was brought to General Santos two days later.

He was locked up in the Sarangani Provincial Jail on Feb. 28 as Prisoner 357.

POLL-RELATED

Nationwide inventory of prisoners ordered

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND PETER LA. JULIAN
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina has ordered a nationwide "inventory" of all prisoners to thwart any attempt by politicians to use them as flying voters or private armies in the May 14 elections.

He has also authorized the Philippine National Police and his department personnel to conduct random inspections of the country's jails and report "missing prisoners."

The move, he said, was meant to prevent "disappearances" of prisoners and to remove suspicions that they might be used for election purposes.

The move was also aimed at reassuring election watchdog groups that are wary of "irregular disappearances" of inmates every election season, he said.

Memo to govs

In a memo he is set to issue this week, Lina will ask the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology "to conduct an inventory of the prisoners under detention or already serving sentence."

To ensure that all prisoners are covered by the inventory, Lina said he would issue a memorandum to provincial governors to also conduct inventories in provincial jails.

He added that the police would intensify the campaign against illegal firearms two weeks before the election and two weeks after.

Long before Lina raised this concern, the PNP had monitored at least one alleged case in the Tinangis penal farm in Camarines Sur, where inmates were set loose to be used in illegal partisan operations.

The interior secretary made the announcement during Friday's "covenant-signing" for peace, honest and orderly elections for local candidates in Region I, held in San Fernando, La Union.

Though the affair was attended by some 400 people, including about 60 local candidates, conspicuously absent were the region's political bigwigs, like the Marcoses of Ilocos Norte.

Lina nevertheless praised the people of Region I as he cited a police record showing that no election "hotspot" has been monitored in the entire region, which covers Ilocos Norte and Sur, Pangasinan and La Union.

Peace pact

Sixty-eight candidates on Friday signed the peace covenant that committed them to "reject the politics of violence that has caused the destruction of the freedom of choice of the Filipino people."

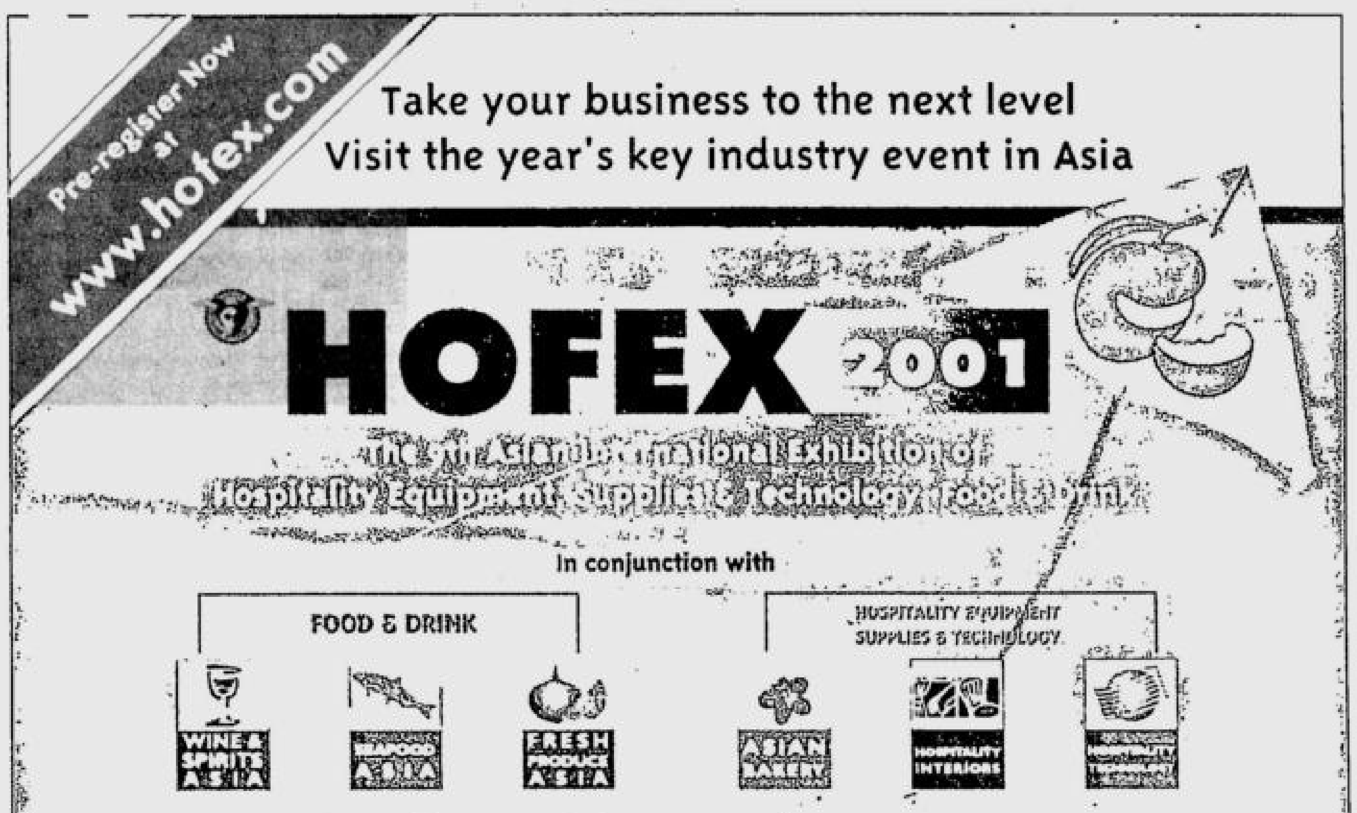
The signatories included Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani, San Fernando Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, businessman Michael Magsaysay who is running for congressman in La Union; broadcaster Efren Rafanan who is running for governor in Ilocos Sur; and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina.

Like the Marcoses and ally Rodolfo Fariñas, Casiano Ledda, who is running for mayor in Balaoan town in La Union, the site of four politically motivated killings, did not show up to sign the covenant.

His rival, incumbent Balaoan Mayor Joaquin Ostrea Jr., signed the agreement.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, who delivered a short message before the signing, urged the candidates to be "extra careful" about the terms of the covenant because "it will be God who will confront us in the end."

Bishop Antonio Tobias of the Diocese of San Fernando asked the candidates to restrain their supporters because, he said, the latter, and not their political leaders, are usually the victims of poll violence.



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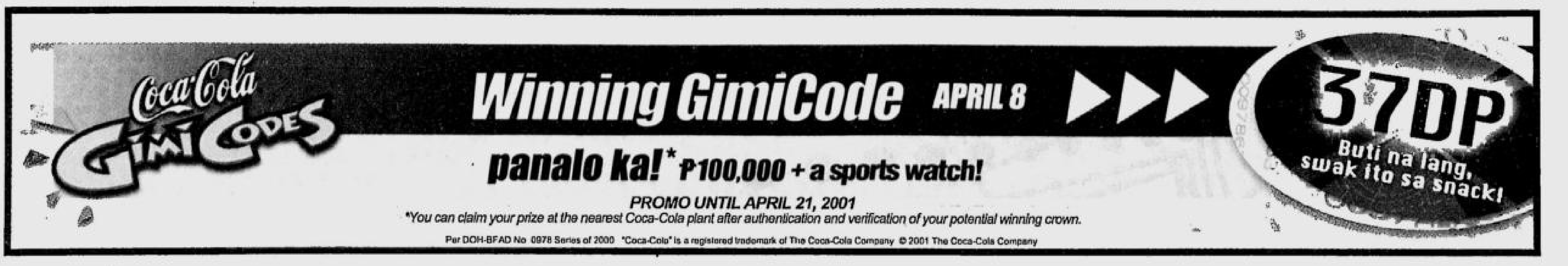
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ANNIE Baloyo, mother of Mary Grace, slumps into the arms of 1Lt. Ditto Nestor Dinopol, Mary's boyfriend. CARLA GOMEZ

'She showed all of us how a soldier should die'

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—"Can I hug her?" Annie Baloyo asked.

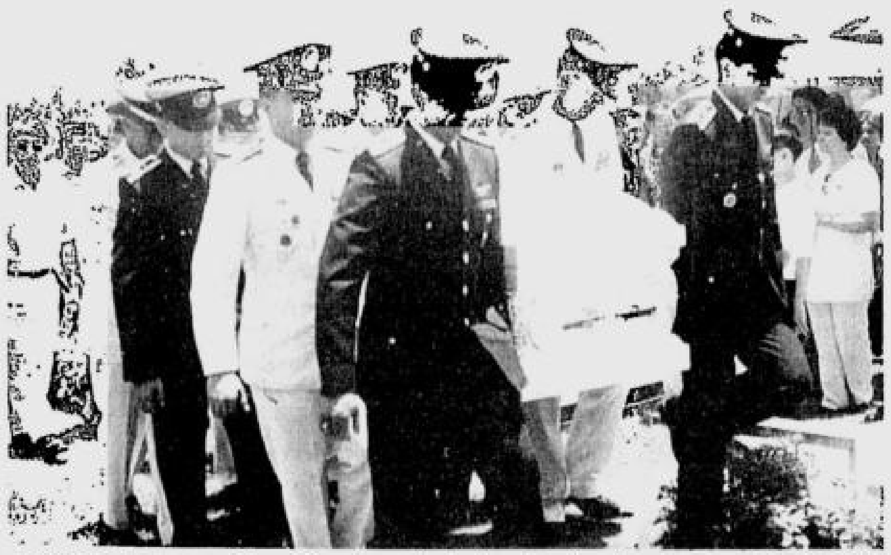
Without waiting for an answer, she threw her body across the flag-draped white coffin and wept. It was a mother's final goodbye to a dead daughter.

At high noon yesterday, Air Force Capt. Mary Grace Baloyo, hailed as a hero by everyone, was laid to rest with full military honors at the Bacolod Memorial Park.

Buglers sounded the taps, the final farewell for a departed soldier, as the coffin was slowly lowered to the ground.

A funeral at high noon, which is the highest point of the day, is also part of the final honors for a soldier, signifying the high regard in which the one who died is held.

"I can't take this... I can't take this," a weeping Annie Baloyo said, as Mary Grace's fiancé, 1Lt. Ditto Nestor Dinopol held her.



AIR Force men carry Mary Grace's coffin to her final resting place. CARLA GOMEZ

Before the casket was lowered and the taps sounded, the Air Force gave Mary Grace a 21-gun salute.

Earlier, a lone helicopter flew overhead and showered mourners with red and white petals as the coffin was carried out of the funeral car.

About 2,000 of Mary Grace's relatives and friends, including the entire Class '97 Bravo Company, Mary Grace's classmates at the Philippine Air Force, attended the funeral.

Two Air Force platoons and a band playing a slow funeral march accompanied Mary Grace to her final resting place.

Immediately preceding the funeral, a necrological service was held for Mary Grace at the chapel of her high school alma mater, the St. Scholastica's Academy, which is some 3 km from the memorial park.

Dinopol, who struggled to hold back his tears, said he was very proud of Mary Grace because she gave up her life so that others may live.

"She will always be in my heart until I grow old," Dinopol said.

There was to be no final viewing of Mary Grace for her mother, Annie, her father, Romeo, and the rest of the Balayo family. The coffin remained sealed because Mary Grace's body was burned beyond recognition in the March 26 crash of the OV-10 Bronco propeller fighter plane she piloted and maneuvered away from a populated area in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

A much bemedalled pilot, Mary Grace was one of only six women combat pilots in the Philippine Air Force. The command has a total of 32 women pilots.

Mary Grace was killed instantly when her reconnaissance and bomber aircraft crashed and burst into flames in a vacant lot, about 10 meters away from the houses of more than 200 families.

She chose to sacrifice her life, refusing to eject from the distressed plane so she could steer it away from the residential area.

"She showed all of us how a soldier should die," said Air Force Chief, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

If she hadn't died, "Amazing Grace" as her peers called Mary Grace, would now be in Mindanao girding for missions against the Abu Sayyaf, Defensor said.

Baloyo, who died a first lieutenant, was posthumously promoted to captain and given a Medal of Valor by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday. She was the first woman pilot in the history of the Philippine Air Force to die in the line of duty.

The Medal of Valor is the highest recognition given to a military officer for sacrificing her life for the sake of others.

"She left us a legacy of courage and distinguished performance which we will carry all our lives," Defensor said. "The way she died is special to us because up to the end she maintained the heroism she displayed even while on combat missions in Mindanao."

Brig. Gen. Enrique Abad, commander of the 15th Strike Wing to which Mary Grace used to belong, said Baloyo was a great loss to the strike wing.

"We are very much saddened (by her death)... Her mission in this world has been accomplished. She was a fulfilled Air Force officer and pilot," he said.

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Erap foes take campaign to cyberspace

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

CRITICS of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his candidates in the May 14 elections are taking their campaign into cyberspace.

eLagda.com, a group that last year used the Internet to gather one million signatures to force Estrada to step down, has announced plans to launch next week a website to campaign against "Erap lackeys" running in next months polls.

"They betrayed the public trust. Never again should they be elected to any public office," the group said in a preview of its website, www.elagda.com.

The group is directing its campaign against four reelectionist senators—Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan—who were obviously on the side of Estrada at his impeachment trial.

The group will also ask voters to junk six other candidates of Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa coalition—former first lady Dr. Loi Ejercito, former executive secretary Edgardo Angara, former defense secretary Orlando Mercado, former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, former press secretary Ricardo Puno and broadcast journalist Noli de Castro.

eLagda is also campaigning against local candidates identified with the deposed president, including mayoralty candidates Jejomar Binay in Makati, Alfredo Lim in Manila, JV Ejercito in San Juan and Luis Asistio in Caloocan, as well as San Juan congressional bet Ronaldo Zamora.

The group stopped short, however, of endorsing a 13-0 sweep for the administration's People Power Coalition.

It expressed support for reelectionist senators Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Sergio Osmeña III and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., the senator-judges who opposed the Estrada camp at the impeachment trial.

eLagda also endorsed PPC bets Joker Arroyo and Wigberto Tañada, both members of the House team that prosecuted Estrada, former Speaker Manuel Villar, former Cebu Rep. Ernesto Herrera, and former economic planning secretary Winnie Monsod.

The group is running a poll asking members if it should endorse a 13-0 sweep or back one of the other remaining PPC senatorial candidates—former Bulacan governor Robert Pagdanganan, former Batangas representative Ralph Recto, former internal revenue commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chanto or lawyer Francis Pangilinan.

Most of those who have responded to the survey—80 percent—favor a sweep.

CHATO

MONSOD

More exposure for 5 'weaker' People Power bets

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

IF you find Liwayway Vinzons Chato appearing to speak much longer than the more prominent candidates in recent administration campaign sorties, it's not that she has found much more to say than, say, Joker Arroyo.

It is because that the People Power Coalition campaign strategists have decided that Chato and the four People Power Coalition senatorial bets who are perceived to be "weaker," based on recent surveys, should be given more exposure in the less than one month left of the election campaign period.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, PPC campaign director for Metro Manila, acknowledged that this was one of the new strategies that have been adopted to ensure a 13-0 PPC victory in the May 14 polls.

Aside from Chato, a former internal revenue chief, the other PPC candidates outside the "magic 13" winning circle are UP economics professor Solita Monsod, Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tanada, Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera and former former Bulacan governor Obet Pandanganan.

But Cayetano said the five candidates, particularly Monsod and Herrera, are fast catching up, as shown in the surveys.

Aside from being given a "longer speaking time" during campaign rallies, the five are also the first to be introduced.

Their names also appear first in the PPC campaign leaflets and flyers, he added.

Each of the five will also be paired with the "stronger candidates" in campaign sorties, said Sen. Juan Flavier, who ranks either No. 2 or 3 in recent surveys.

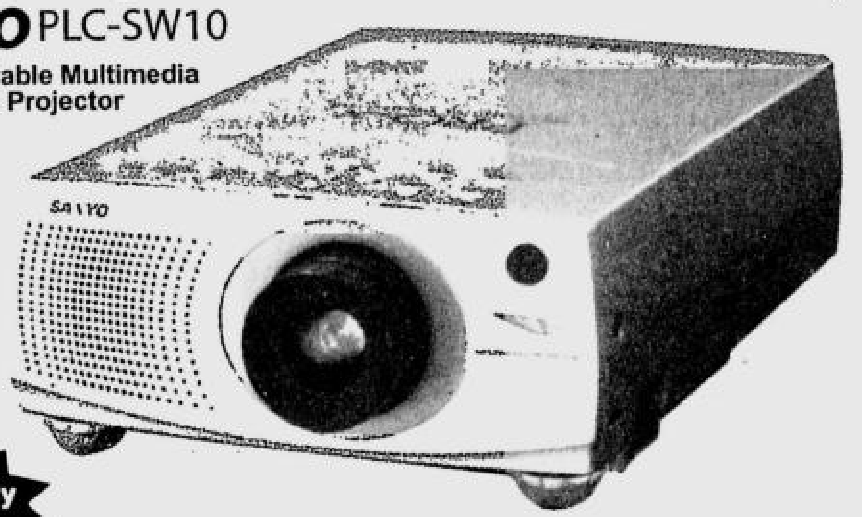
Flavier said he and Monsod would be appearing together in political advertisements.

And during the rallies, if any one of the five is not around, he would usually endorse them, Flavier said.

During a recent sortie in Antique, Flavier spoke in behalf of Monsod, who skipped the PPC rally there to go to another engagement.

The bid to prop up the five can be seen in the press releases that the coalition has been lately putting out. PPC press statements would quote the five bets on major issues of the day

PPC organizers would also encourage reporters covering the campaign to interview and talk to the five bets.



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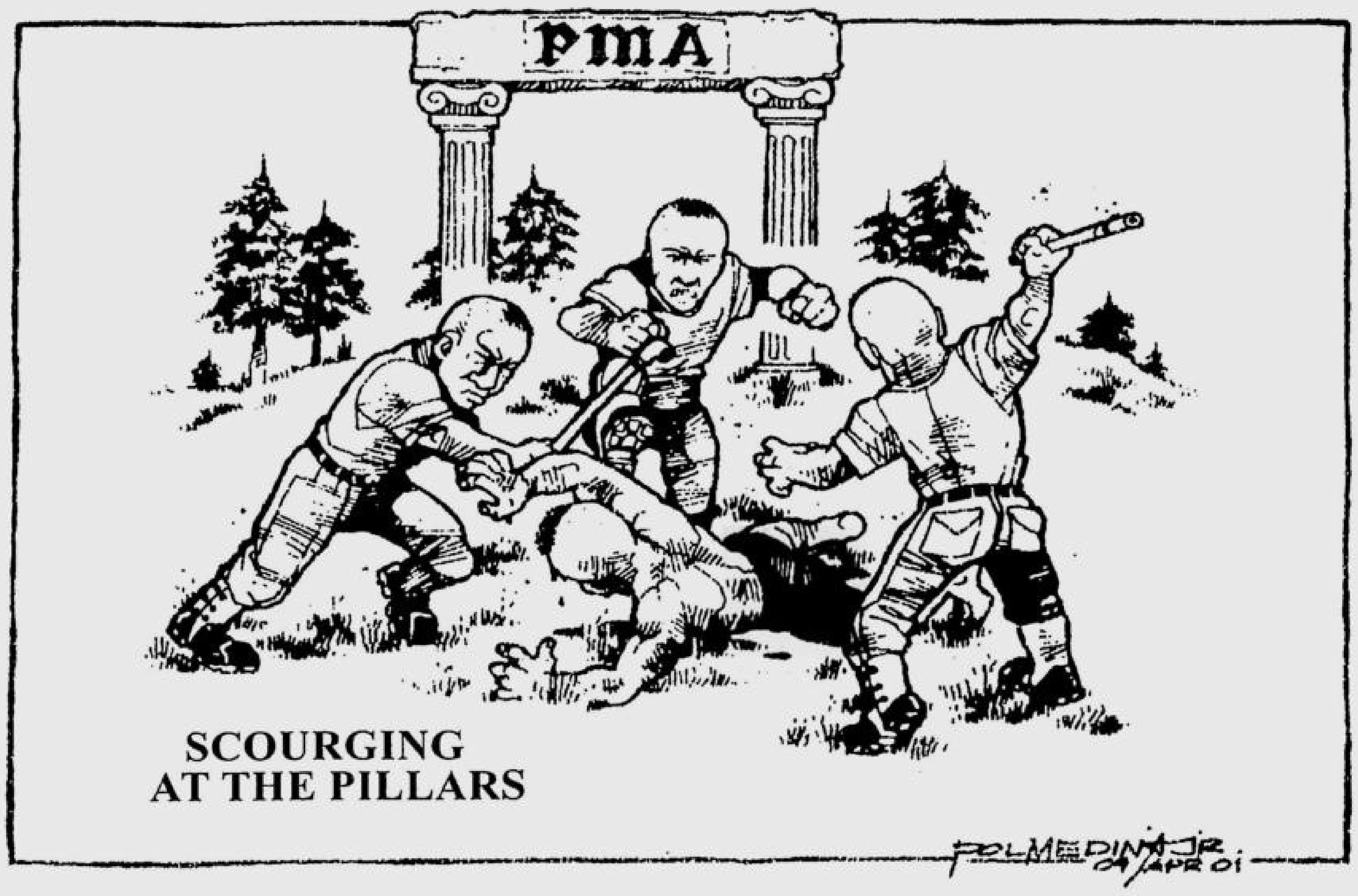

Bloody but unbowed

EDITORIAL

HOW fitting that "Araw ng Kagitingan" or Bataan Day falls at the start of Holy Week today. Filipino war veterans of World War II have endured their calvary for the past 59 years. The agony of waiting, the humiliation of begging for what has been long due them, the carrying of the cross, the betrayal of America, the dying with no resurrection in sight.

How did the Filipino soldier of World War II come to this? Believe it or not, by a stroke of the pen. An Act of the US Congress in 1946 considered the service of the Filipino soldiers not part of service in the US Army. Talk to any veteran, and he'll tell you that he was inducted into the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) pledging loyalty to the American flag. This was so because President Franklin Roosevelt at the outbreak of the world war in the Pacific in 1941 called the military forces of the Philippine Commonwealth into the service of the US Army.

Clearly, the Filipino soldiers fought under the US flag in the US Army. A US law said they did not. But our veterans know better. Without them, there would be no Bataan to memorialize as an epic struggle of the human spirit.

Sure, they have been thrown a few crumbs, the biggest being the Immigration Act of 1990. It made our veterans eligible to apply for US citizenship. Which struck us then as being too little, too late. At that time, the average age of the surviving veterans was already 76. The law did not address the veterans' decades-old claim amounting to more than $3 billion in wartime compensation and benefits as soldiers fighting under the American flag.

The gallantry of the Filipino soldier fighting side by side with his American comrade made Bataan the inspired battle cry rallying the Allied cause onward to victory in the Asia-Pacific war theater. It put Bataan and the Philippines on the map of the history of heroism. The wartime British prime minister, Winston Churchill, hailed the valor of the Filipino soldier as "second to none."

While the rest of Asia succumbed to the conquering Japanese hordes in a matter of days and weeks, the Philippines held out in Bataan for four months from January to April 1942. Of the defenders of Bataan, 78,000 were Filipinos; 12,000, Americans. They lacked food and medical supplies. And they had to share their dwindling supplies with about 25,000 civilians who had evacuated with the armed forces. Cut off by the Japanese blockade and without adequate air cover for supply ships, the troops had to go hunting for monkeys for food.

The malnourished troops who had to be on alert 24 hours every day were easy prey to diseases like diarrhea, malaria, dysentery and beriberi. In addition to the wounded, the field hospitals were crowded every day with sick soldiers. By March, 9,000 soldiers were sick in the forward areas; more than 25,000 in the unit areas, and 12,000 other soldiers in the rear. The combat strength of the Bataan defenders was drastically diminished.

How the USAFFE soldiers stood their ground, scoring victories over the Japanese forces who were relentless in their initially futile attempts to break through the line of defense constitutes a truly amazing chapter in the history of World War II. "Battling bastards of Bataan," they were so named because though isolated, sick and hungry with defeat knocking at their doorstep, the USAFFE soldiers just carried on fighting.

Ten thousand Filipino soldiers died in Bataan. With the fall of Bataan, the Filipino and American troops were taken prisoners and forced to walk from Bataan to Camp O' Donnell in Capas, Tarlac. Altogether, 29,000 Filipino soldiers died in the Death March and in prison.

The USAFFE radio on the day Bataan fell on April 9, 1942 announced the surrender stressing not the fall but the spirit that made Bataan stand for as long as it did. It memorialized victory in defeat. An excerpt reads: "The world will long remember the epic struggle that Filipino-American soldiers put up in the jungle fastnesses and along the rugged coast of Bataan—men fighting under the banner of unshakeable faith are made of something more than flesh. But they are not made of impervious steel. The flesh must yield at last, endurance melts away, and the end must come.

"Bataan has fallen. But the spirit that made it stand—a beacon to all liberty-loving peoples of the world cannot fall...The Philippine-American troops on this war-ravaged and blood-stained peninsula have laid down their arms. With heads bloody but unbowed, they have yielded to the superior force and numbers of the enemy."

Our Filipino veterans have not stopped fighting. They have fallen, but they rise again bloody but unbowed.

Driving people crazy

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

WHO said Filipinos are bad drivers? I did ("North Luzon depressway," PDI, 4/4/01) and that's an understatement.

Those who commute daily know what I'm talking about. The aggravation, the delays, the poor infrastructure, the crooked traffic cops (and those clueless traffic aides!), the heat in summer and the slushy days of the monsoon. As if we didn't have enough problems already.

The economic cost must be incalculable. And what about the mental and physical toll on us suffering drivers? And on the poor vehicles. No wonder they gasp and cough and fart and belch.

But the main culprits are us. As the comic character Pogo declared, "We've met the enemy and he's us." It's being "Pinoy" that's to blame.

If, for example, you make a full stop at a full-stop sign, you're not Pinoy. If you give way to another vehicle, instead of insisting on your macho-ness, you're not Pinoy. If you don't try to beat a fellow driver to a parking spot, you're not Pinoy. If a visiting foreigner wants to know the Filipino character fast, all he has to do is get into a car and drive around. The worst of the Filipino is in full display out there.

What we're writing about is really not just about bad driving. It's what it says about us. And, with all its consequences—particularly including horrifying accidents—it's just as topical as any current issue. Of course, there's so much else to write about: "Live Show," Bubby Dacer, Ping Lacson, Miriam, Erap, Gloria, the Cardinal, rapist-priests and many others. And there's the heart-rending story of Claudine Feliciano and the heart-warming heroism of Air Force Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo.

While we're diverted from the main topic: you want to know my views on "Live Show"? I think it's a silly debate that surfaces every now and then and pits the same protagonists. I don't see it as a complicated issue. Artists must be free to take their craft to the edge. That's the nature, and arguably even the raison d'être, of art. It is to explore the unexplored, to probe society's secrets, to seek the truth, to make us think, question and act. And, to use a cliché, the truth often hurts. It hurts our hearts and our sensibilities, as evidently in the case of "Live Show," which I've not seen (how can I when it's been banned?).

The reason there's a rating board (the MTRCB) is to classify movies to determine who can see them and who cannot. So long as they don't show "objectionable" films out in the public for free, so long as people have to pay to get into a movie house, so long as the television set has an off-on button, then the government has no business censoring or prohibiting films, just as it has no right to ban books or paintings.

The problem is authorities cannot enforce the ban on underage citizens seeing films with adult themes or footage. But the solution is not in banning or curtailing artistic freedom. That's going backwards.

But back to driving. The anarchy on our roads is not simply a problem of bad drivers, bad traffic enforcers and bad road conditions. These are indeed problems on their own. But they also symbolize the broader dilemma we face as a growing nation, just as the debate about "Live Show," the continuing conundrum about what to do with Erap, the way younger citizens are being under-educated, etc., do.

Bad driving and all the aggravation it brings into our lives, for example, exemplifies the chaos that reigns in society today. Motorists' disdainful lack of respect for authority indicates the erosion of the public's esteem toward the police in particular and government in general. Drivers are often inconsiderate, indifferent to other people's comfort and safety, which is emblematic of people's selfishness and lack of concern for their fellow citizens. Cops who extort from drivers are criminals who, instead of being the citizens' protectors, are their predators. In the West, cops are called pigs. No wonder.

And so, why expect citizens to have any respect for order on the roads and consideration for other drivers and pedestrians? Traffic authorities have allowed bad driving practices and habits to become a way of life.

Take the counterflow, for example. This method of easing traffic has its place, when one road is hopelessly clogged and using a lane from the opposite direction can undo the standstill. But this should be supervised by a traffic aide. Today, however, the bolder (and inconsiderate) drivers create their own counterflows, exposing unwary drivers from the opposite lanes to danger.

There are just too many bad driving habits and practices. Non-regulation gadgets and accessories that distract other drivers. Making left or right turns three-lane-deep. Unnecessary blowing of horns. Bus drivers are particularly guilty of this. They work on their horns annoyingly, to attract the attention of passengers at bus stops. Is that really necessary?

Wailing ambulances become helpless in traffic because no one would give way. In Metro Manila, if you have a heart attack, it's probably not worth trying to get to a hospital. Might as well call for a priest and receive Extreme Unction and accept your fate calmly instead of fighting it out in traffic.

Right of way on the road no longer exists. Right of way belongs to anyone who gets to a spot first, no matter where he or she was before getting there. There are many, many more examples to cite. But anyone who's driven on our roads know them all too well.

All the bad and unsafe driving boils down to the erosion of the Filipinos' positive traits (how come, for example, drivers don't wave "thank you" anymore when another driver gives way to them?). The way we drive today doesn't speak well about us. The way we drive is emblematic of our current status as a nation. We like to say we're a young people, a young nation. But that's only our euphemistic way of saying we're still a crude, immature, undisciplined people.

Isn't bad driving really a manifestation of our bad manners?

Leandro V. Coronel, who lived in the United States from 1969 to 1997, now lives and writes here.

Glimpse of heaven

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE BLACKOUT didn't happen to me last Saturday dawn, it happened to me last Thursday night. And what a magnificent blackout it was.

It happened at Odette Alcantara's place, a refuge for painters, musicians, writers and other lovers of life (is there one without art?) down the slopes of Blue Ridge. I went there for three compelling reasons. The first was Cecile Licad, the second was Alexander Tomescu, and the third was the food. Yes, the food. Odette has been known to serve the kind that has merited rave reviews from her guests.

I would learn later that Licad goes there expressly for the *pochero*, descending from the heights of Mt. Olympus, or the hotel she is billeted in each time she comes home, to partake of its earthly delights. When I saw her feasting on it, I remembered an e-mail I got some weeks ago from a reader. It said: "They served Miriam Defensor-Santiago beef stew in London when she visited there. That was 10 years ago. The rest is history." I was certain Licad would not share the same fate. Some people are just prone to some diseases.

There is little about Licad that suggests her Olympian origins, though there is much about Tomescu that does. A young man in his mid-20s, Tomescu does not cut a handsome figure, he cuts a beautiful one. He can easily play the role of Siegfried in any opera or movie, though he is Romanian and not German, resonating as his persona does with the aura of hero. Tall and lanky, he looks even younger in person than on the stage, and more vulnerable. He seems ill at ease without his violin. I thought of some of the people his age at my office. At that hour, they would be in the thick of a "gimmick," or listening to the blaring sounds of an MP3, crisscrossing their arms rhythmically to the beat of Eminem or Limp Bizkit. I don't know that Tomescu doesn't do those things in private, when out of the clutches of salon gatherings.

But to go back to Cecile Licad: There is everything to suggest instead that she constantly slips through the gates of Olympus to visit the alleys of the world below in disguise. The disguise includes a low register baritone voice and a laughter that issues from deep within a rusty well that are not always easy to reconcile with an angelic face. Wearing denims and a sleeveless black blouse, she slouches on a chair, her legs thrown down the floor in a lazy stretch. She smokes, holding her cigarette with outstretched fingers, taking deep and frequent drags on it—you can see the burn at the end of it retreat fiercely with each puff. She speaks in street Tagalog, now and then bursting into laughter.

Someone would tell me later that she wants to see to it that her daughter—they live in New York—gets to know as much of life as possible. Not like her, who grew up cursed with talent, living a life that had been mapped out for her. She has remained shy and private, which some have mistaken for snobbery and reticence, and not all of it owes to a childhood spent in the company of piano teachers rather than friends. A great deal of it owes to a feeling that she knows so little. She has been heard to wonder what she is doing in the company of people who know so much. "When all I know is how to play the piano."

That was when the blackout struck. I was asking Manny Baldemor where the wood used by the woodcarvers of Paete came from when the huge metal cylinder atop the electrical post in front of Odette's house crackled like lightning and sent sparks flying down the street. Instantly, the lights went out—but only at Odette's, the rest of the neighborhood remained lit. First time it happened, said Odette amazed, as she went about lighting votive candles. She would say later it was Red Romero who did it—it was his ninth day. I counted the days and came up with only eight, but I figured artists were never deterred by numbers. I also figured that Romero's presence was electric.

Tomescu took his leave shortly after that, but Licad stayed on. It was during a lull in the conversation that she stood up, as casually as she reveled in her freedom that night in the company of friends, and went over to the baby grand that nestled in the corner near the door, like an invitation. The moment she sat on the piano stool, even before her fingers touched the keys, she underwent a transformation, as sudden as the clap of thunder that plunged the house in darkness one heartbeat ago. The darkness helped, but probably only those of us who sat with mouth agape, who found an aesthetic ally in the glow of candlelight. I do not know that it would have mattered to the Player—for that was what Licad had become—who was no longer in that place at that moment.

In an instant, gone was the shyness, gone was the hesitation, gone was the rumble of laughter that gurgled from a well. The moment she sat before the piano, you knew she was transported to another world. You knew she was harking to another voice, and had surrendered to it like a lover. Some might call it her Muse, some might call it the music itself, with its own compelling seduction, or imploration. Some might call it magic.

She played pieces that had been heard countless times by countless ears, Chopin's and Schumann's, and breathed a new longing to them. As her fingers flew through the keys, I remembered completely mundanely what they said about the turbo trains of Japan, that what enabled them to run at that speed was that their wheels were no longer touching the rails at one point, they were just skimming through them. Her body swayed and writhed to the music—they can never teach that at music school—as though it were struggling to wrestle down an elusive note, or feeling, or angel. Her face was turned away to the street, where a haze of dirty-white light from distant fluorescents outlined her figure, and gave it a sheen, or a halo, or a force field, like Star Wars. You marveled that music, which are just notes strung together, could spring to life like a lion, or flit about like a sprite. You wonder how human beings, who are just water and carbon mixed together, could spark such explosions in your soul. Maybe some of them do come from Olympus.

When the last note left the piano, the last tingle of sound clinging achingly to the air like a residual spasm of pleasure, Licad stood up to applause, a shy smile back on her face.

I saw her again next day at the CCP, where she performed with Ruggero Barbieri, and she was magnificent, attacking the cadenzas of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 like a madwoman, hair flailing and fingers crashing the keys.

But it was the night before that would remain magical for me. The night of the great blackout, when light tumbled down a house at the slopes of Blue Ridge like a flood.

And I caught a glimpse of heaven.

***

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Senator Erap signed 'Anti Plunder Act'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OUR colleague Isagani Cruz wrote, as an example of this country's many aberrations, that a "senatorial candidate with a baritone voice is topping the surveys" whereas, by contrast, "a known nationalist with an impressive legislative record is hardly making it to the winning list." Cruz asserts that the *masa* "cannot distinguish between the idiot board and the Constitution."

Cruz, in citing the known nationalist with an impressive legislative record who seems to be lagging behind, is referring to People Power Coalition senatorial candidate and House impeachment prosecutor Wigberto Tañada. The fact that Tañada seems to be trailing some show-biz personalities is truly lamentable, but luckily this has awakened many citizens to the need to conduct a badly needed political education among the masses.

* * *

Lamentable too, is the fact that summa cum laude mechanical engineer-turned-local executive Obet Pagdanganan is trailing behind show-biz people in the senatorial race. Obet, a self-made multinational executive who would have become president of Unilever at the age of 39 had not President Cory appointed him Bulacan OIC governor, turned his province around for the next 12 years, making it an outstanding example in cooperativism at its most dynamic. Obet, cheated out of a Senate victory in the 1998 elections, has vowed to sponsor legislation that would empower local governments for more development.

* * *

I'm also thinking of Senate candidate Boy Herrera who's also fighting it out at the tail-end of the Magic 13. Herrera made a name in the Senate for his anti-drugs advocacy and labor legislations, but like Obet and Tañada he is trailing behind the show-biz guys.

There was a recent news item about how Cavite Gov. Bong Revilla personally bailed out PPC senatorial candidate Ralph Recto and his movie star wife, Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos, who were caught in traffic in Cavite during a rally. Revilla failed to extend similar help for Herrera who, as the latter's aide lamented, is the only disabled senatorial candidate. On the campaign trail, Herrera, a childhood polio victim who moves about with crutches, is left behind by his colleagues; he has difficulty climbing up the rally stage. But his disability is an asset his handlers could turn around to win sympathy votes.

* * *

Part of what Justice Cruz terms the "impressive legislative record" of Tañada was his co-authorship, together with then Senate President Jovito Salonga, of the "Anti-Plunder Act," now RA No. 7080, in Tañada's capacity as chair of the Senate Committee on Revision of Laws. The Anti-Plunder Act is the law under which deposed President Estrada is now being prosecuted, but few know that among those who voted for its passage was Sen. Joseph Estrada from San Juan. Sadly, however, when he became president over eight years later, he forgot all about that law.

Another related law passed in February 1989 in Salonga's enlightened tenure as Senate president was the Ethical Standards Act, now RA 6713, which he co-authored with Tañada and his nephew, then Sen. Rene Saguisag. By a curious twist of fate, Saguisag is now Estrada's chief lawyer in the plunder cases against him.

* * *

Salonga, in his recent book on the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, titled "Presidential Plunder," explained why he filed the Anti-Plunder Act—it was borne out of his experiences during his one-year stint as first Presidential Commission on Good Government chair. Salonga pointed out that plunder or wholesale larceny and pillage was not punished in our statute books; on the other hand, the crimes of malversation of public funds, falsification, theft, etc. under the Revised Penal Code were "clearly inadequate" to cope with the magnitude of the corruption and thievery which the PCGG had uncovered during the Marcos years. As a result, Salonga recalled, the government found it necessary to file around 80 separate complaints against the Marcoses and their co-conspirators for various offenses, so that the overall conspiracy "had to be cut up into simple criminal charges as required under the law."

The new Anti-Plunder Act punishes with non-bailable life imprisonment any public officer who amasses or acquires ill-gotten wealth amounting to P75 million, with forfeiture of the wealth in favor of the State. Salonga pointed out, however, that the Death Penalty Law, RA 6579 of 1993, reduced the amount covered by the Anti-Plunder Act to P50 million, and increased the penalty from life imprisonment to death as a heinous act. Interestingly, a number of those who voted for the Anti-Plunder Act in its original form, including Salonga himself, and Senators Tañada, Saguisag and Alberto Romulo (now the finance secretary), were and are against the death penalty.

* * *

Earlier I cited that small- and medium-sized insurance brokers are up in arms against Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia's new Office Order No. 10-01. This order directs the General Insurance Group of the GSIS to course all reinsurance requirements to the National Reinsurance Corp., a firm composed of the 74 leading reinsurance agencies in the country, except for 20 percent owned by the GSIS. The smaller brokers, who point out that they have always been doing business with the GSIS, now claim that this new directive will kill their business while cornering the reinsurance business for a chosen few favored by Garcia. They also charge that Garcia issued the order without board approval, and that a case is due to be filed against him by the Ombudsman.

* * *

The GSIS chief wrote to point out that for its own corporate protection and to guarantee collection in case of a contingency, the GSIS has always endeavored "to be on the side of prudence in selecting its reinsurance partners." Thus, he stressed that it has selected only those with substantial capitalization, demonstrated competence and good track record of paying claims as its accredited agencies.

Garcia said that in line with the GSIS' aim of providing the best protection for the pieces of property it ensured, it gives reinsurance business to the members of the National Re who can absorb "GSIS business given to them, or eventually, pay for the reinsurance claims charged against them." He pointed out that the reinsurance volume of the entire country last year amounted to P12.28 billion, of which the GSIS ceded P1.4 billion. This shows, said Garcia, that the private sector handles almost 90 percent of the total reinsurance volume, and the GSIS only 10 percent. Thus, he said, it is difficult to believe that giving the 10 percent GSIS reinsurance exclusively to the National Re would be enough cause to "bankrupt" the remaining 38 small- and medium-sized brokers who are non-members of the National Re.

(To be continued)

Taiwan treads cautious line in spy plane row

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Yeh

TAIPEI—Amid frantic efforts by the United States and China to solve the spy plane row, Taiwan has taken a highly cautious line, all too aware it has a lot to lose when the two superpowers clash.

Local media have asked both Beijing and Washington to exercise restraint in handling the standoff, which has now lasted a week despite signs a compromise perhaps being worked out.

The US Navy EP-3 Aries plane made an emergency landing on China's Hainan island last Sunday after colliding over the South China Sea with a Chinese fighter jet, the pilot of which is still missing.

US officials in Hainan had a third meeting with the 24 crew members of the plane early Sunday.

Amid all this the island is caught in a delicate position between its arch foe China and the United States, Taiwan's leading arms supplier since Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

"It seems that the best policy for Taipei is to keep tight-lipped, although the government may really want to voice its moral support to Washington," said Joseph Wu, deputy director of National Chengchi University's Institute of International Relations.

Among reasons for sympathizing with Washington, he said, was that "Taiwan and the US share some interests militarily, including the sharing of intelligence on China."

"The US military information is critical to Taiwan," Wu said.

The US helped Taiwan build electronic intelligence-gathering capacity during the Cold War, and military analysts believe the bonds still exist.

But as yet the Taiwanese government has strictly kept to its policy of caution, with both the foreign and defense ministries declining to comment on the dispute.

The low-key response is intended to not give Beijing anything to be used against the government of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party.

"The new government has been very careful not to enrage Beijing since President Chen Shui-bian took power last year," said Yang Chih-heng, deputy director of the Strategic and International Studies think tank of the Taiwan Research Institute.

In his inaugural speech last year, Chen, the island's first head of state not to come from the Kuomintang party, guaranteed he would not seek independence nor press for a plebiscite during his four-year term.

Beijing—which sees Taiwan as a renegade province and has threatened to use force to reunite it—repeatedly lambasted Taiwan when it was ruled by former President Lee Teng-hu, saying he was a troublemaker trying to sabotage Washington-Beijing ties.

And as negotiations inch ahead to tackle the crisis, Taiwan has voiced concerns that its interests could be sacrificed by the United States in the interests of Sino-American relations.

At Wednesday's regular cabinet meeting, Premier Chang Chun-hsiung urged the United States to respect the Taiwan Relations Act, under which Washington is committed to providing the island with the means to defend itself.

Experts have called attention to Beijing's more aggressive tactics in intercepting US spy planes.

"It was a clear signal of China's significant achievements in modernizing its forces, particularly the air defense capability," Yang said.

He said Washington's mere concern about Taiwan security was not enough, and that the United States should make "concrete guarantees" if it was to check any invasion moves by Beijing.

The worries come as George W. Bush's new administration ponders the decision on whether to provide Taiwan with Arleigh Burke-class destroyers equipped with the Aegis radar system.

China has bitterly opposed such a deal, which it believes could tie into a future US missile defense system.

The White House insisted Friday that US arms and equipment sales to Taiwan were not a part of negotiations aimed at resolving the standoff, but the island nonetheless remains nervous. *AFP*

Cloning man, imitating God

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

HUMAN cloning is once more in the news, with reports that doctors and scientists are on the verge of quietly crossing an ethical and biological Rubicon. They are making waves among governments and global publics that are justly concerned with technology's seeming encroachment into the domain which many reserve for God. Even Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel wrote a letter to the editor of this newspaper last week, calling for public discourse on the implications of cloning human beings. Scientists and religious leaders, politicians and theologians, ethicists and lawyers, pundits and the general public ought to participate in studying and understanding this important issue.

The idea of cloning human beings has been the tantalizing premise of numerous books, articles, movies, plays and other forms of speculative entertainment ever since the discovery of DNA. For example, each of the adult human body's roughly 75 thousand billion constituent cells contains DNA instructions for producing a genetically identical twin or clone of that human being.

So it is not surprising to see reports, like one that landed on the front page of our favorite newspaper last week, of cults calling for the cloning of Jesus Christ from one of His relics,. such as the Shroud of Turin. The apparent intent is to bring about a Second Coming by performing a biotech resurrection of the Man from Nazareth. If anything, it would satisfy the curious to get some idea of what Jesus looked like.

Unfortunately, the public imagination has wrongly leapt to the conclusion that cloning can somehow reproduce the exact human person being cloned from cells supplied by that person. This is impossible because memories are not stored in a person's DNA, so they would not be present in a physical clone.

The scientific state-of-the-art is nowhere near the ability to capture the memories or brain content of subjects to be cloned, much less transfuse it back to a physical clone. All that is feasible is the creation of a functionally identical copy of that person's physical state right after his father's sperm fertilized an egg in his mother's womb, using only cells from that person. So even granting that some of Christ's DNA survives on earth, say in alleged blood stains on the Shroud of Turin, the best we could do is produce a genetically identical twin of the person from which that blood came. But unless that clone relives the actual life of Christ, he might not act or think like Jesus Christ at all.

In fact, if his nutrition habits here in the 21st century are radically different from what was prevalent in 1st century Nazareth and Jerusalem, this clone might be physically quite different than the historic Jesus. But of course, he would look about the same. Hair and eye color, facial features and similar genetically controlled traits would mirror the original quite faithfully. Unfortunately, the guardians of the relic, which is stored in a specially guarded vault in Turin, Italy, have retrieved all samples previously given to scientists taken from the Shroud and would surely object vehemently to any attempts at cloning such material or producing a human being from it.

Some say that it would be a good way to test the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, which has been questioned ever since 1989 when radiocarbon dating tests sponsored by the Vatican indicated that it was of 12th or 13th century origin. If these tests are to be believed, and there is blood on the Shroud, cloning it might resurrect at least a simulacrum of the clever French or Italian forger and artist responsible for creating the Shroud. On the other hand, if the clone that emerges has Jewish and Middle Eastern features with an inborn talent for beatitudes and parables...

The whole premise of cloning human beings has become more and more plausible ever since the landmark cloning of a sheep in Scotland, which produced Dolly, the world's first mammal ever to be cloned from the DNA of a single adult sheep. Dolly was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in the labs of PPL Therapeutics Inc., on July 5, 1996 in animal cloning experiments of Dr. Ian Wilmut to support medical and pharmaceutical research.

The process of preparing the embryo that would become Dolly, called cloning by nuclear transfer, has its Frankenstein-like aspects, which have been made much of by the popular press. For example, an electric shock is actually used to activate the newly assembled embryo and jump-start its growth, just like Hollywood movie depictions of the novel, "Frankenstein the Modern Prometheus," London, 1818, by the 19th century British author Mary Wollstonecraft.

None of this has adversely affected Dolly's public career as the world's first mammal cloned from an adult cell. In fact, Dolly herself has given birth to a totally normal lamb, Bonnie, produced by normal relations with a ram or male sheep, followed by reassuringly normal triplet lambs last year. Since Dolly the sheep, many high-order mammals have been cloned, including mice, horses, cattle, pigs. There's even Tetra the monkey, but that's really another story.

The animal breeding industry hasn't been this excited, probably since the wild carabao was conned into submission, or horses tamed, or dogs and cats domesticated. The real story and significance of Dolly the Sheep is the clear possibility of mass reproducing the highly desirable and commercially valuable physical characteristics of the very best of the breed, whether it be pigs, cattle, chicken, sheep, (or shudder, men). Accurately mass reproducing champion livestock has become feasible, because in principle, you can harvest thousands of cells from an animal and grow them out as clones using the same process that made Dolly.

If only the imitation of Christ which the nation attempts again this week were as easy.

Lenten break

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

ASIDE FROM being a holiday to observe the Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Heroism), today is also the start of the Holy Week, the culmination of the Lenten season. Next to Christmas, the commemoration of the suffering of Jesus Christ is considered one of holiest events in this predominantly Catholic country.

This is the time of the year that the reportorial and editorial staff of the Inquirer look forward to. It has nothing to do with religiosity, a trait the stockholders of the newspaper are known for. Mass is celebrated on the premises every first Wednesday and Friday of the month, in addition to the holidays of obligation.

Rather, it is during this week that the daily task of reporting takes a two-day break. The Inquirer does not come out on Good Friday and Black Saturday. For the rest of the year, Christmas and New Year included, the newspaper is available for the reading pleasure of its patrons.

The reporters and editors take a breather on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. They return to work on Black Saturday to put out the Easter Sunday edition of the newspaper.

During those two days, the editorial room, which is located at the third floor of the Inquirer building, takes on the shape of a meditation room. No desk editors rushing from one table to another to check on the preparation of the news. No reporters typing their reports as they talk over the telephone to get more facts or the side of the parties involved in the news. No television blaring in the background to keep the staff informed of breaking news.

From a mad house of journalists rushing to beat the deadline, the editorial room is virtually transformed to a prayer room that meets the requirements of the contemplative Pink Sisters. The only things that move are the communications facilities that receive transmissions from international wire services.

No news anyway

Until March 27, 1997, the Inquirer was a year-round carrier of "balanced news and fearless views." The staff did not take a break from their work. They fulfilled the need of the readers to be informed of the things around them seven days a week without interruption.

In deference to the Lenten season, management suspended the publication of the newspaper on that day, a Good Friday. The following year, 1998, the suspension extended to Black Saturday. From then on, the practice of shutting down the editorial room for two days became permanent.

Religious and health considerations aside, the two-day respite makes practical sense. Starting Maundy Thursday, the country virtually grinds to a halt. The newsmakers in government are either on vacation or are participating in religious activities. The private offices are closed. Their executives and employees are most likely at some out-of-town resort or in attendance at Lenten rites.

Even the bad elements of our society take a break from their routine. They're probably afraid of earning the wrath of the Almighty if they continue to ply their evil trade while everyone else is observing the solemnity of the season. According to veteran police reporters, police blotters are usually empty during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

With virtually nothing moving in the country and nothing to report, the newspaper might as well temporarily close and let its staff recharge their batteries for the hard reportorial days ahead.

But there's a big "if" in this two-day vacation. If a very important event happens during the two days that, in the judgment of the editor in chief, should be made known to the public without delay, the staff can be recalled from the comforts of whatever place they may be in to restart the operation of the editorial room.

* * *

The column I wrote last week ("Special column for OFWs") drew a response from several readers who pushed for an OFW-exclusive column at the Inquirer.

Marvin Bionat wrote: "I have to disagree with your suggestion that an OFW-exclusive column will run out of topics! That assumption can't be farther from the truth, because we are talking about a column that will attempt to provide a voice to seven million Filipinos from 139 countries around the world.

"You can't possibly tell the real-life stories or air the concerns of the 80,000 Filipinos in Saudi Arabia in 10 columns. The experience of the hundreds of thousands of our compatriots in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia are very unique and interesting terrains on which to focus.

"The variety and richness of the immigrant experience in foreign lands alone will be enough to sustain an entire newspaper. Add all the recurring economic, legal, moral and political issues that surface in different contexts and you'll have an endless source of fresh material."

From Saudi Arabia, Jeff Devilleres e-mailed to say: "Count me in the long list of people who want to see a 'special column for OFWs' to be part of the Inquirer. If this suggestion can be granted, sure thing, all of us here will be very grateful. Through your newspaper, we can air our comments, sentiments and ideas on topics related to our country. And has a better percentage of being heard."

Writing from Hong Kong, Juanito Concepcion cited, among others, the reasons why OFWs should be given a column of their own, namely:

"More than eight million Filipinos are currently working abroad. Their views and perspective of issues in the Philippines can be very different and fresh from those in Manila because they have the benefit of having an international or even global perspective which can be useful to readers in the Philippines.

"OFW families, relatives and friends in the Philippines likely comprise a large segment of your readers. Multiply seven million by three and you have at least 24 million Filipinos with a keen interest to read about their work, challenges, opportunities and views of OFW life abroad and their opinions on burning issues in the Philippines."

I forwarded all the letters I received from the readers to the editor in chief with the request that she take them into consideration in deciding whether or not the OFWs should be given a column of their own.

Let's keep our fingers crossed.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Another promise

"My first resolution will be to amend the Constitution so no president can occupy the post without being elected."

—Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said if she wins another term

Defending a subordinate

"If I know my subordinate is right, I will defend him until kingdom come."

—Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa taking a dig at former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes for the latter's alleged failure to defend him

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LETTERS

The cross is full of contradictions

WHEN He was presented to Pilate by the Jews, Christ was found by Pilate to be a fool. Christ's reply to Pilate, that His kingdom belonged to another world, was ridiculous. To Pilate, the idea cannot come from a sane mind. And yet Pilate condemned Christ to hang on the cross.

The cross was embraced by Christ for all its cruelty, as if it were a bouquet of flowers. Peter could not understand that the One who calmed the storm should hang helplessly on the cross. When He was taunted by the mob, Christ did nothing. Those who did Him wrong, He forgave them. .

One great lesson from the history of western civilization is that the cross has become a symbol of cruelty and barbarism, and yet it has also become the symbol of God's love. "Greater love than this no man has than he who lays down his life for his friends."

If Christ did not admit that He was God before the Sanhedrin, He would have avoided the cross and led a life of ease and comfort like the rest of mankind. But He did not. Foolishly, He admitted to the Truth. For being true to Himself, He died on the cross.

We hate the cross for its cruelty. And yet Christ has taught us that that is our way of life.—**MARIANO F. CARPIO, 680-B Felina St., Sampaloc, Manila**

Fair deal for electricity consumers

I REFER to the letter of Pete Ilagan, president of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nasecore), published on April 2.

It has always been my view that the Omnibus Power Bill should concentrate only on the privatization of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the deregulation of the electric power sector. It should only touch upon the electric cooperatives where their operations converge with power deregulation and the need to reduce electric costs to the consumers.

I agree with Ilagan that reforms may be overdue in the rural electrification sector, the electric cooperatives and even the National Electrification Administration. These reforms however must be tackled in a separate legislative initiative that I intend to pursue in the next Congress if I am adjudged worthy of reelection by our people.

The views of the Nasecore should be duly considered in the coming national debate on the subject. I encourage Ilagan to keep up the good work in working for the interest of electric cooperative members.

An Omnibus Power Bill is urgently needed by our country. The Napocor's financial problems need to be addressed as the electric-service industry is an essential public service responsibility of the government. We have to lay down clear and fair rules so that private investors in the future power generation needs of the country will feel comfortable.

What has been stalling this important legislation is the effort of the special interest groups to control the language of the law so that their private interests are protected. It has been made complex by efforts of various sectors to use it as a vehicle to reform the electric cooperative institutions, a separate sector that deserves its own in-depth and focused debate and legislation.

Please be assured of my unwavering commitment to fight for a fair deal for electric consumers nationwide especially those in the rural areas. At the right time I would be pleased to receive complete position papers and to have the personal participation of Ilagan in the deliberations on desirable reforms.–**SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE, Suite 401 Marsman Bldg., Muelle de San Francisco St., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila**

Support for former BIR chief

WE express great shock and disbelief at the decision of the Sandiganbayan against one of our most esteemed members.

Ambassador Bienvenido A. Tan Jr. is a person known to us for moral uprightness, integrity and honesty. His dedication, involvement and commitment to government service, social and civic causes are well-known, widely acknowledged and appreciated. He is unselfish of his time in his service to the Club as pro bono legal adviser to the board of directors and in various committees. At all times, he displays objectivity, wisdom and fairness.

Benny is a person who is not afraid to make bold and difficult decisions. His fearless involvement in the Agrava Fact-Finding Commission on the Benigno Aquino assassination is a case in point.

We are saddened by the judgment of conviction for a decision Benny believed to be right, just and proper. We fear that this development may further discourage good people like him from serving in government, to the detriment of the country.

Benny, we believe in you! We support you! Let not your faith in our judicial system be diminished for in the end, we are confident that justice will prevail.—**THE MANILA POLO CLUB MEMBERS**

* * *

WE would like to express our regret over the unfair treatment and rash judgment made by the Sandiganbayan in the case against Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr. during his term as internal revenue commissioner. We have worked closely with him in many of our mission projects and we can vouch for the integrity of his person and the values he upholds.

We have known of his personal and family sacrifice to put up the Salome Tan Foundation. He gives a lot of his time to foundations and NGO work to alleviate poverty.

We got his support for our educational vision when he provided us the seed money for the Marie Eugenie Institute to operate. The past eight years, the institute has been responsible for the formation of thousands of teachers and staff to the Christian principles of pedagogy that Marie Eugenie developed in her schools.

The former ambassador has also generously responded to the critical need for laboratories, classrooms and equipment in our missions schools in Passi, Kibangay, Malibay and most recently, in Baguio. He supported San Lorenzo when it needed to upgrade its facilities through the step by step implementation of its master plan.

We appreciate his acceptance of the chairmanship of the Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation. As its chair, he has studied thoroughly its problems and supported fully its ongoing projects in San Simon, Pampanga.

The charges leveled at him have not taken into account his manner of committed involvement in any project of which he is part, going out of his way to visit and personally investigate before making recommendations and arriving at a decision. We have seen this in the way he has visited each of the beneficiary areas of the Assumption's mission, no matter how remote.

We pray that he will be given a fair hearing and that the truth will prevail in the end.—**SR. MARIA EMMANUEL MELOCOTON, R.A., provincial superior, Assumption Provincialate, 1 Sacrepante St., Boni, Mandaluyong City**

Marching against 'trapos'

WE fully agree with your editorial (PDI, 3/21/01) that the disenfranchisement of 4.5 million Filipino youths does not mean that all hope is lost for our continuing struggle for good governance.

While it may not be possible for the youths to vote through the ballot this time, the youths can still manifest their choices through their feet by marching against traditional politicians in an anti-*trapo* campaign, to deliver the much-needed support to genuine alternative politicos.

Through this, the right to vote is indirectly exercised by influencing other people's votes—especially the *masa*, who often fall victim to the politics of guns, goons and gold.

Youthful idealism should take the reality of disenfranchisement as a challenge. We should not let the *trapos* gloat over this temporary setback or allow our idealism to be corrupted by rotten traditional politics.

Let us fight on.—**MICHELLE LICUDINE, youth spokesperson, Sanlakas**

Lourdes Street of memory

I READ with great enthusiasm Virginia B. Malay's High Blood contribution titled, "Saga of Lourdes Street." Lourdes Street is very memorable to me, mainly because I courted a girl named Lourdes as early as 1953. We were classmates in the Institute of Law of the Far Eastern University and graduated in 1955. Up to now, she is still unmarried but is in Oakland City, California.

I am looking for some of my pre-war friends who used to live on Lourdes Street. Among them are Lino Castillejo Jr. the former manager of Standard Brands of the Philippines. He is the father of the Castillejo sisters who figured and were famous in sports. The other person I knew was Gloria Benigno, the sister of Teddy Benigno. Now I live in Parañaque City. Every day, I pass by Roxas Boulevard and of course Lourdes Street. The most famous of the residents of the place is my very good friend Larry Henares, whose house in Aurora Street, Pasay City, I bought in the early '60s when he was a candidate for senator. Kit Villa and I were the most notorious in gate crashing dances from pre-war days up to the martial law years. How could I forget Lourdes Street?—**B. AL. HERNANDEZ, Rm. 206 Traders Royal Bank Bldg., Andres Soriano Jr. Avenue, Intramuros, Manila**

Grant Maynilad's petition

REGARDING your editorial last March 13 titled, "Waiting to be heard," I want you to know that my family agrees with you regarding the plight of Maynilad Water. Is there really an alternative to Maynilad's petition for a rate increase so that it can recover its losses arising from the depreciation of the peso versus the dollar?

Those who are against it, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet, are forgetting that the ones who are going to be victimized by the inability of Maynilad to become a viable company because of the refusal of the government to grant its petition would be homeowners like me.

It was only recently that Maynilad got to our subdivision and we have been getting good, safe and cheap water since then. If Maynilad gives up its concession, then our family, like the rest of the households here, will have to go back to buying water from unscrupulous water vendors, who sell us water from P150 to P250 per cubic meter.

The government should not just hear Maynilad, it should quickly approve its petition.—**CECILY C. BALONTONG, 28 Road 8-B, UPS 5, Parañaque City**

Invaluable gift of a truck

I WORK in community development projects in small and far-flung villages in Palawan and Aklan. Early last year I asked for help from a Makati-based foundation, detailing the story and the needs of our village in Palawan, in a letter and some photographs. Within minutes after my letter was received, I got a call from the head of the foundation himself. He said, to my astonishment, "What you need is a truck. When can I come and visit your village?"

In just two months, the foundation head had completed his visit and made arrangements to have the truck shipped and delivered. No forms to fill out, no further questions asked. Imagine if you can, the joy—the stunned reaction, to be precise—of the people who rushed to meet the truck as it roared into our village. When the parish priest baptized our truck, virtually everyone burst into tears.

Today, that truck has not only helped our farmers ship their produce to the main market at very reasonable cost, but it has also become an ambulance, a school bus, an emergency hauler of stranded vehicles and the convenient transport of villagers to meetings and church events. From a personal perspective, it was the ease with which I was able to help obtain this priceless donation that convinced me to stay on in the Philippines and continue my work in community development.

I had promised the head of the foundation not to divulge his name and his good deed. But these are different times, and while the people of our village in Palawan do not have the resources to come out with full-page advertisements extolling the virtue of this gentleman, we can at least write this letter to tell the rest of the world how much this person's generosity has changed the lives of simple folk.

Our benefactor? Ambassador Bienvenido A. Tan Jr.—**PERLA L. MANAPOL, 6073 Palma St., Barangay Poblacion, Makati City**

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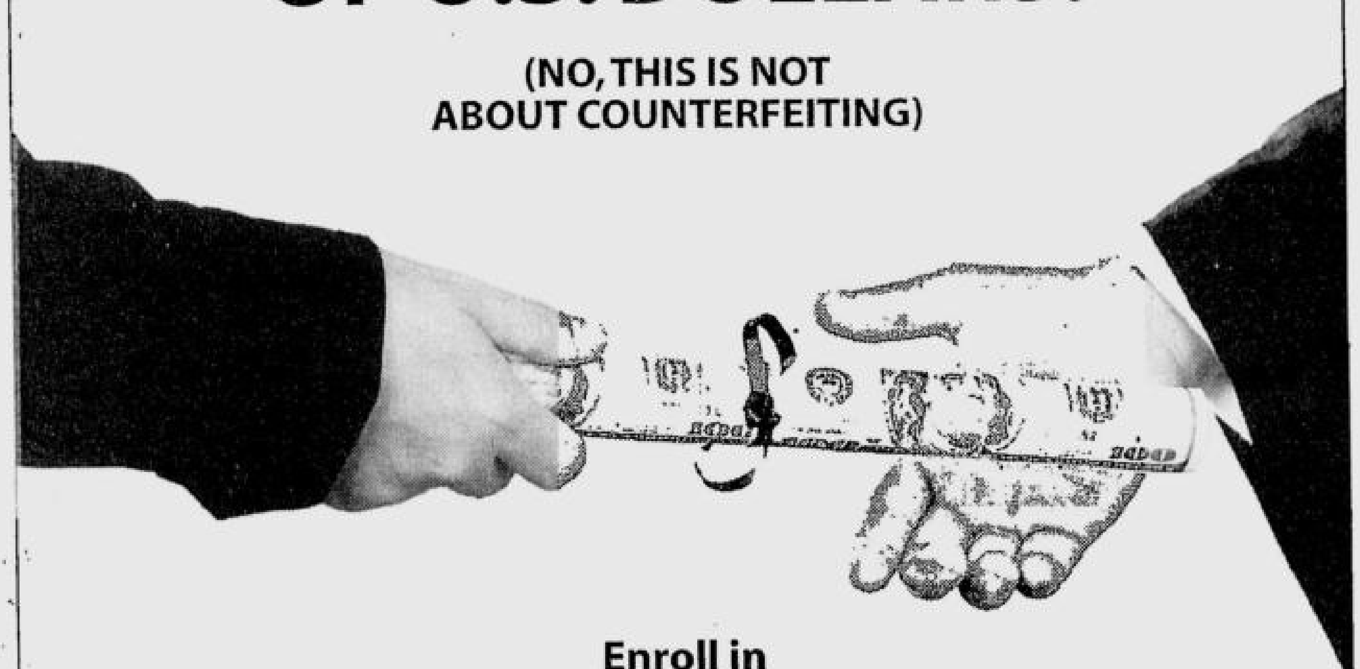

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Another view of the controversy

THE PROGRESSIVE Organization of Gays in the Philippines (Progay) supports director Jose Javier Reyes and resigned Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chair Nick Tiongson who suffered unfairly from the obscurantist manner with which political forces fomented, handled and portrayed the controversy over the film "Live Show," showing themselves to be purveyors of morality while painting artists as pornographers.

Progay is deeply concerned with the resurgence of right-wing interests in the new administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as can be gleaned from the confluence of several developments. The government last March led a "civil society" consultation on pornography and earlier, fundamentalist forces have started launching attacks against reproductive health for women.

It doesn't help that the Macapagal administration is stuffing its top bureaucracy with militarist demagogues and right-wing aristocrats, whose cold war cultural tastes convey to the masses that the national malaise is caused by public discussion of sexual matters.

We saw "Live Show" and personally conclude that the film is not a gratuitous display of nudity for its own sake or was intended to generate impure thoughts but actually does the opposite. In its entirety, it is really an indictment of social realities that allow the proliferation of real people involved in the sex trade.

Despite its limitations, "Live Show" confirms the view that prostitution is indeed an exploitative trade, not just another kind of occupation that can be called "sex work" that anyone can enter in a free market which would be co-equal to any other kind of livelihood that can be legalized and regulated. The movie tells us that prostitution must be eliminated and that the prostituted men and women and their clients must be freed from the enslavement of commercial sex.

Progay maintains that moralists are barking up the wrong tree in their basic assumptions, that all liberal expressions of sex are the root of immorality of the world. The attack on "Live Show" and the disgrace that befell Tiongson are now wrongly attributed to a battle between moral uprightness and indecency, and this same reductionist formula will now be used as the launching pad for cheap inquisitions, with politicians leading in public bonfires.

It is precisely the belief in globalization and free market concepts by the past and present occupants of Malacañang that is sadly the economic basis and philosophical rationale for pornography, prostitution, trade in drugs and other contraband and the breakdown of social relations.—**OSCAR ATADERO, secretary, Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines, 90 Bugallon St., Project 4, Quezon City**

Peace talks must work this time

THE RESUMPTION of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front is a welcome development for a people long divided and torn by conflicting economic and social interests. It is a positive step toward confidence-building to set a sound climate and pursue a just and lasting peace.

The armed conflict which has spanned three decades manifests that the causes of the conflict—poverty, oppression, strife and inequality—remain unaddressed.

Several rounds of peace negotiations have been held since the Aquino administration, all of which promised bright hopes for peace but fell short of it in the end. The Estrada administration, in particular, practically terminated it when it refused to recognize previously made agreements between the two parties. These, in particular, are the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) which includes in its provisions a neutral venue for the talks, The Hague Declaration and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (Cahrihl).

We hope that this time under the Macapagal administration, the agreements will be revived and recognized to enable both parties to move on to other substantial portions of the talks. But this early we are seeing the same old arguments of venue, stature of the contending parties and credibility of their leaders being rehashed no end. It serves no purpose than to pose as potential stumbling blocks.

The initial release of political prisoners and recently the release of Army Maj. Noel Buan already mark good faith in both parties. We, in the religious sector continually call for the release of the rest of the political detainees in the country to better foster sincerity and as a matter of recognizing the root causes of their struggle.

The path to peace can only be genuine when justice is served the people. It is their interests that must be met.—**REV. FR. JOSE P. DIZON, convenor, Christians on the Move for Spiritual and Social Salvation, 172 West Riverside St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

China military demands hard line

BEIJING—China's politically powerful military stepped up pressure for Beijing to take a hard line against Washington in a standoff over a US spy plane. American diplomats said the plane's detained crew were in "high spirits" Sunday after receiving e-mails from their families.

Defense Minister Gen. Chi Haotian said Saturday the People's Liberation Army won't let Washington "shirk responsibility," dampening hopes for an early release of the 24 US crew members. The crew has been held on southern Hainan island, where they made an emergency landing after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet.

Chi's stern tone was in contrast to assurances by diplomats and civilian leaders that Beijing sought an early settlement and didn't want the dispute hurt US-Chinese relations. It also added to suspicions that military and security forces—the most hawkish segment of the government—were obstructing a settlement.

American diplomats on Hainan island were allowed early Sunday to meet for an hour with the 21 men and three women from the US Navy EP-3E. Diplomats saw the crew twice before, on Tuesday and Friday.

"The crew is... in very high spirits. They understand the circumstances under which they are here," said the US Embassy military attaché, Army Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, who saw the crew Sunday.

"They are looking forward to going home. They do offer that they very much appreciate the e-mails that they've been allowed to receive from home," Sealock said without giving any details.

In a positive sign, Sealock said the Chinese gave US diplomats "unfettered access" to the crew during Sunday's meeting. He said he was able to update the crew on efforts to win their release and on news from the outside world, including sports. Previous meetings had been tightly controlled.

Sealock said he has asked permission to see the detained Americans twice daily.

US officials said the two sides were trying to reach a settlement. President George W. Bush was "focused on continued diplomatic efforts" to free the crew, a White House spokeswoman said.

But Washington's position was "unchanged," said Mary Ellen Countryman, spokeswoman for the National Security Council, when asked if an apology from the United States was still possible. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell have expressed regret over the loss of the Chinese pilot, but the White House has said it will not apologize for what it says was an accident.

China's top foreign affairs official, Vice Premier Qian Qichen, told Powell in a letter made public Saturday that that stance was "still unacceptable." The United States, he said, must "apologize to the Chinese people."

And the defense minister stepped up the pressure. "It's impermissible for them to want to shirk responsibility," Chi told the missing pilot's wife, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. "The People's Liberation Army does not agree to it. The Chinese people don't agree to it. The people of the world also won't agree to it." *AP*

Act sensibly, Asean urges US, China

KUALA LUMPUR—Southeast Asian nations urged Beijing and Washington on Saturday to act sensibly in the interest of their long-term relations to resolve the standoff over the US spy plane and its crew detained in China.

Rodolfo Severino, secretary general of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said that the Sino-US row was unlikely to cast a shadow on the region's relationship with either China or the United States.

"I hope this incident is approached and handled sensibly and rationally with the long term in mind," Severino said in an interview on the sidelines of Asean finance ministers meeting in the Malaysian capital.

A US Navy aircraft on a spying mission over the South China Sea had a mid-air collision last Saturday with a Chinese fighter, sparking a major standoff between the two countries.

Severino said the incident would not hinder negotiations between China and several Southeast Asian nations on establishing a code of conduct to prevent conflicts over the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

"Those discussions are going on and there are bilateral discussions also going on between China and a few Asean countries. I don't think it will affect the discussions," he said.

The Spratlys are a cluster of isles, reefs and rocky outcrops claimed wholly or in part by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

The islands, viewed as a potential regional flash point, have sparked a series of diplomatic flare-ups between Philippines and China.

The head of a US-Asia business lobby group, who met Asean finance ministers on Saturday, also urged a quick resolution to the row between Washington and Beijing, as it helped no-one.

"It doesn't make sense for anybody, not China, not the United States nor certainly Asean... for the US-China rhetoric to be wound up like it is," Ernest Bower, president of the US-Asean Business Council, told a news conference.

US President George W. Bush said on Friday Washington and Beijing were "making progress" on the return of the US lane, as both sides worked toward an agreed account of the collision that triggered the affair.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. *Reuters*

7 US, 9 Vietnam nationals killed in chopper crash

HANOI—Former foes Hanoi and Washington were united in grief Sunday as they pledged to work together to establish the cause of a helicopter crash which killed seven US servicemen and nine Vietnamese nationals.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was swift to express sadness at the loss of Vietnamese and American personnel while Vietnam's foreign minister sent his condolences to the families of the US victims.

The aircraft burst into flames and blew up in the north-central province of Quang Binh Saturday afternoon while on a mission to prepare for the recovery of Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War, Vietnamese officials said.

It was the first tragedy in America's 16-year-old joint program with Vietnam to account for US servicemen still listed as missing from the war.

"The helicopter burst into flames and blew up at 4:15 p.m. Saturday," a provincial military command spokesman said, citing an official report.

The accident happened in the commune of Thanh Trach in Bo Trach district, just 700 meters from Vietnam's main coastal highway.

Emergency teams were on the scene within just 45 minutes.

A district commander said the search operation had proved relatively easy because of perfect weather conditions and the relative lack of tree cover at the accident site on Hon Bung hill, 12 km from the district's main town.

The bodies were all located overnight but were so badly charred that identification was proving difficult.

The seven Vietnamese nationals who died in the crash were mainly civilians, officials revealed.

They comprised three flight crew from a small state-owned regional airline, four aircraft technicians, an official from the foreign ministry's North American affairs department and a senior officer from the defense ministry here in Hanoi.

The remains of all the dead were expected to arrive in the capital around 8 p.m. after being transferred by road from the crash scene around 400 km to the south.

The crash site has been cordoned off by Vietnamese troops while investigators assess the scene.

Vietnamese officials stressed they were working closely with their US counterparts on the accident despite a sharp downturn in relations in recent months over what Hanoi sees as Washington's meddling in a wave of ethnic unrest in the central highlands.

Representatives of the US Embassy and the US MIA mission were at the accident scene together with foreign ministry officials, military commanders said.

Vietnam would work closely with the United States in determining the cause of the accident, they added, despite a renewed diatribe against Washington in the army daily Quan Doi Nhan Dan Sunday for its "well attested interference in our internal affairs." *AFP*

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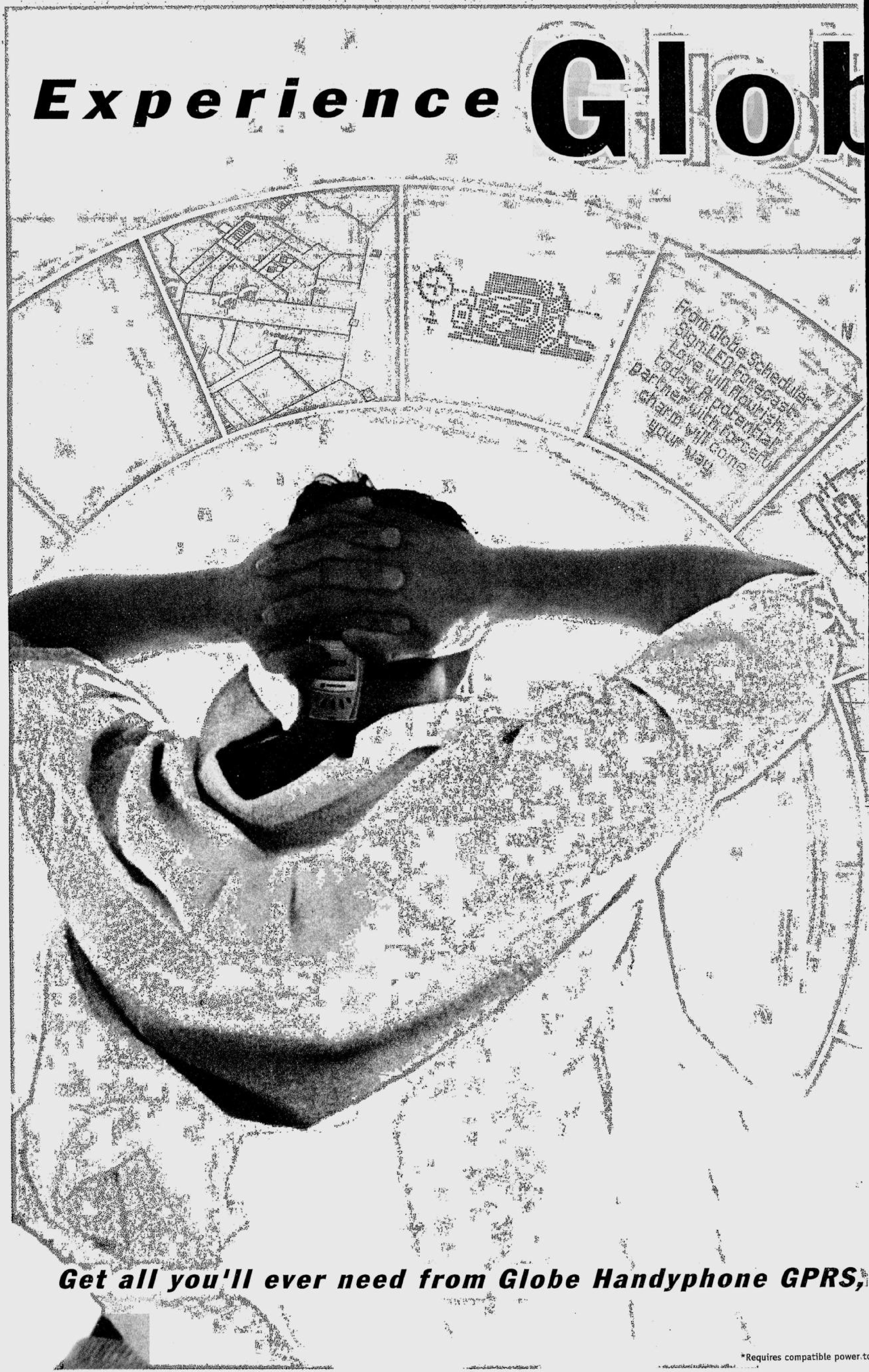
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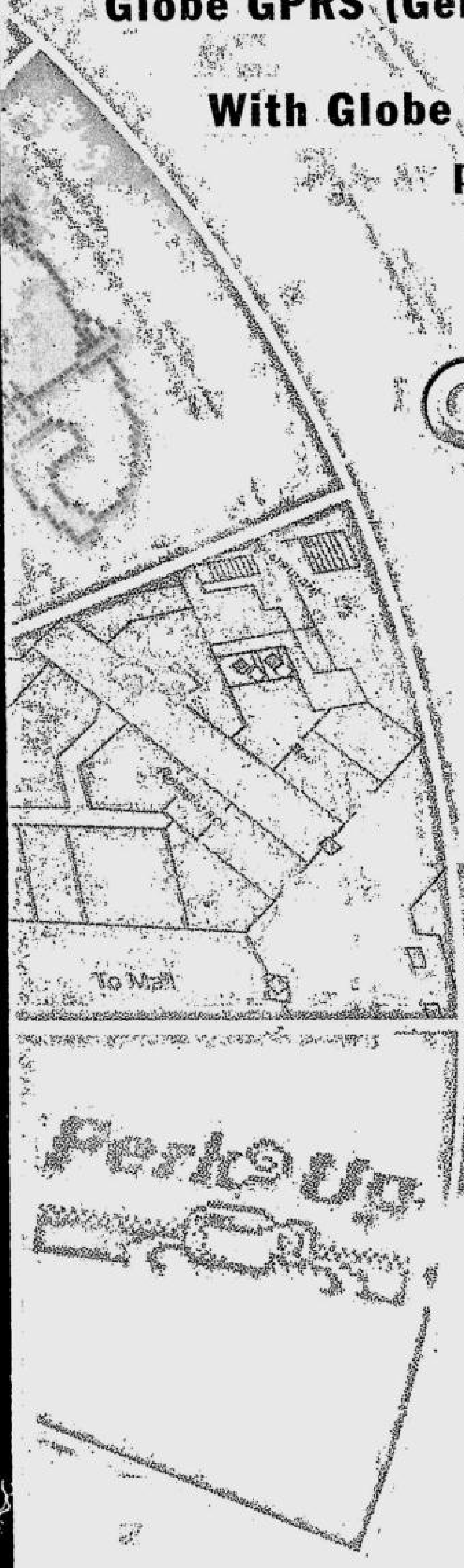

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Arafat expresses Passover best wishes to Sharon amid fighting

JERUSALEM—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Saturday extended Passover greetings to Ariel Sharon and was told by the Israeli prime minister in their first direct contact in a month that peace talks can only resume once violence stops.

The Arafat-Sharon conversation came just hours before heavy fighting resumed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Gaza, Israeli troops fired from tanks and navy vessels during gun battles near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim and the town of Deir el Balah, Palestinian officials said. Three Palestinians were wounded, doctors said.

The army confirmed an exchange of fire, but denied gunboats were involved. It said Palestinians threw an explosives at an army post near the Gush Katif block of settlements.

In the West Bank, Palestinians fired at the Jewish settlements of Psagot and Ofra, drawing Israeli return fire. The gunmen for the first time used a machine gun mounted on a jeep, and Israeli troops fired four tank shells toward the Palestinian town of El Bireh, Palestinian security officials said.

Also Saturday, Islamic militants renewed warnings that they would carry out more bomb attacks. Since the fall, Islamic groups have set off nine explosions in Israel, killing 14 Israelis and wounding more than 100.

Anxiety over bombings has overshadowed Passover, the weeklong Jewish holiday that began at sundown Saturday with a festive family meal during which the story of the exodus of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt is told.

On Saturday, Arafat called Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and dovish opposition leader Yossi Sarid.

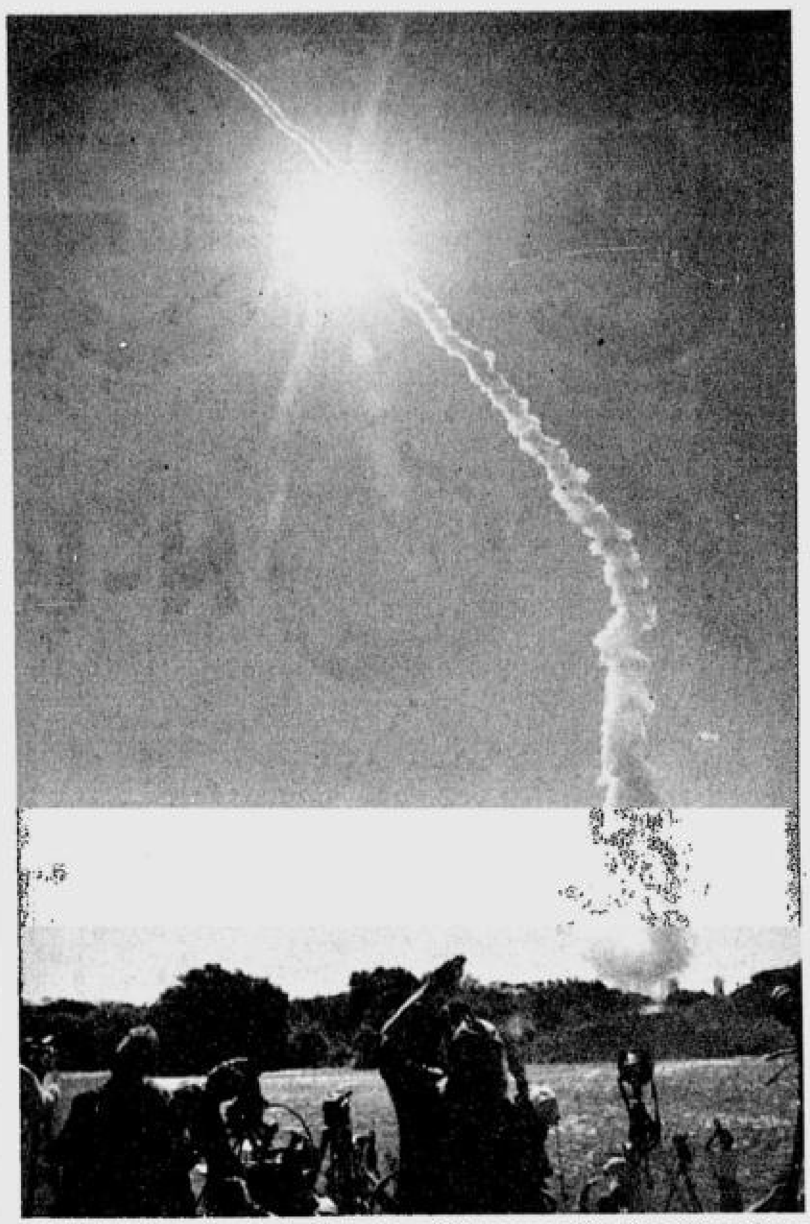
Arafat told Sarid that only a peace agreement could end the suffering on both sides, according to a Palestinian official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Sharon told the Palestinian leader that peace talks, which broke off in January, would only resume once quiet was restored, said Sharon aide David Baker.

Sharon contends that Arafat's security forces are involved in the fighting and has blocked the transfer of millions of dollars in tax refunds to the Palestinian Authority, saying he does not want to pay the salaries of those shooting at Israelis.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat accused the Sharon government of sabotaging peace efforts. Israel is expanding Jewish settlements and escalating its attacks on Palestinian areas "to say at the end of the day 'we don't have a partner' and to point the blame at the Palestinians," Erekat said.

Arafat has delivered holiday greetings to Israelis in the past, but Saturday's calls came at a time of increasing use of heavy firepower by both sides.

During the past week, two Islamic militants were killed in operations attributed to Israel, Palestinians fired more than a dozen mortar shells at Jewish settlements and Israel rocketed Palestinian security bases. *AP*



A BOEING Delta II rocket with the Mars Odyssey satellite lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station April 7. The $297-million launch will send the Mars Odyssey on a scientific mission to Mars to probe Martian surface and provide information about potential radiation hazards for future human explorers. REUTERS

US launches Odyssey space probe to Mars

WASHINGTON—Nasa launched its 2001 Mars Odyssey probe from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida Saturday, sending it on a 460 million-kilometer journey toward the Red Planet, which it is due to begin orbiting in October, Nasa said.

The 725-kg probe, powered by a Delta II rocket, left Earth at 11:02 a.m. (11:02 p.m. in Manila).

"Everything is looking wonderful," a Nasa commentator said as the rocket thundered into a cloudless sky over the southeastern United States.

If all goes well on its $400-million, three-year mission, the Odyssey will transmit information on the presence of water on Mars and the geological composition of its surface back home and help Nasa plan future missions.

"Odyssey will help identify and ultimately target those places on Mars where future rovers and landers must visit to unravel the mysteries of the Red Planet," said Jim Garvin, lead scientist for Nasa's Mars Exploration Program.

In addition to thermal mapping, Odyssey will act as a "virtual shovel" and dig into the planet's crust to analyze Mars's hydrogen content, to measure permanent ground ice and how it changes with the seasons.

Discovering hydrogen "hot spots," says Ed Weiler, who heads the space science office at Nasa headquarters, could "indicate ice-saturated ground or even water leaking to the surface. Are there thermal hot spots that could indicate escaping gases or even water?"

"If there are such areas," he said, "these would be key spots to study for past or current biology with future Martian landers."

The Odyssey will also set up a communications relay for future Mars landers, including Nasa's Mars Exploration Rovers. Scheduled for launch in 2003, the rovers have a longer range than the Sojourner rover deployed on the 1997 Pathfinder mission.

Named in tribute to science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke—who penned the popular book "2001: A Space Odyssey"—the Mars Odyssey is but a small component of the extensive Nasa program to observe the fourth planet from the sun, which hit a low point after the 1999 crashes of the Mars Climate Orbiter and Mars Polar Lander, lost due to human error.

The mishaps led to a ground-up review of Nasa's "faster, better, cheaper" philosophy of launching less costly interplanetary probes more frequently.

Fewer than one-third of the Mars missions attempted by three nations within a 40-year period have been successful, according to Nasa.

"Over the last 40 years, the world—mostly the US and Russia—has tried 34 times to get to Mars and make measurements," said Scott Hubbard, Nasa's Mars program director in Washington. *AFP*

Snail mail: 2 weeks to travel 50 feet

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka's public administration ministry may have set a new record by taking two weeks for a memo from its second floor offices to reach the seventh floor, a press report here said Sunday.

Minister Richard Pathirana admitted that work in his public administration was at a snail's pace and that the inordinate delay in letters traveling within the ministry building was unacceptable, the Sunday Times said.

It said the minister planned to install computers and provide e-mail access to every department within the ministry to ensure speedy communication. *AFP*

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California power crisis seen dragging on

LOS ANGELES—The lights were still on in California early Sunday, two days after the state's largest energy utility declared bankruptcy, but there was no little hope that the state's protracted power crisis would be resolved quickly.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Friday filing in federal Bankruptcy Court is the third largest Chapter 11 filing in US history, and the latest development in California's intractable energy quagmire.

Locals are a little embarrassed that the Pacific coast economic powerhouse that can't seem to find enough juice to keep its mighty turbines running.

California is home to Silicon Valley, the dream merchants of Hollywood and a massive defense industry, the world's eighth largest economy with a Gross Domestic Product of $1.03 trillion.

Yet businesses, facing assembly line shutdowns, have trouble meeting orders, while their employees face darkened traffic lights and can't be sure if their electric alarm clocks will wake them for work.

"My husband is Australian," says student Jennifer Wade, 28. "He laughs about it."

Just about everyone in this state of 34 million souls agrees on what caused the debacle: the mishandled deregulation of California's energy markets that an enthusiastic state legislature unanimously adopted in 1996.

Under that law, investor-owned utilities gave up control of the state transmission grid, and were obliged to sell off most of their power generating plants.

In return, they were free to buy low-priced power—so the free-marketers' theory went—created by new producers.

But instead rates have soared as supply has dried up. No new power plants have been built in recent years, while demand has increased with the booming economy and growing population.

Also utilities had their prices capped, while generators were free to charge utilities whatever the market would bear.

PGandE chairman Bob Glynn took a swipe at California Governor Gray Davis after his company filed for bankruptcy, saying talks with Davis officials had gone "nowhere."

"We expect the court will provide the venue needed to reach a solution that, thus far, the state and state regulators have not been able to achieve," Glynn told reporters.

PGandE, which serves 13 million customers in Central and Northern California, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric have been warning of the looming power crunch since last summer. *AFP*

FOREIGN WORKERS IN JAPAN

Prosecutors take over case of murdered British hostess

TOKYO—Police on Sunday handed over to prosecutors the case of a Japanese businessman accused of killing a British bar hostess, whose dismembered body was found after a seven-month search.

The Tokyo district prosecutors office is expected to decide within three weeks whether to charge Joji Obara, a 48-year-old real estate developer, with fatal assault—or rape resulting in death—against 21-year-old Lucie Blackman, a police spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity.

Blackman, a former flight attendant, was working at a Tokyo night club when she disappeared last July.

The investigation into her disappearance has been this country's most intensely followed missing person's case in years.

It brought to public attention the vulnerability of foreign women who come to Japan hoping to make money as bar hostesses or sex workers. Blackman came to Japan last May and worked as a hostess to pay for trips around Asia.

On Friday, Tokyo Metropolitan Police officials served an arrest warrant for Obara on suspicion of inviting Blackman to have lunch at his condominium, drugging her and then sexually assaulting her after she fell unconscious. If charged and convicted, Obara faces three years to life in prison.

His arrest had been widely anticipated after Blackman's remains were found in February near his beachside condominium outside Tokyo. She disappeared after telling a friend she was going on a drive to the ocean with a client.

Obara was allegedly a regular at Tokyo clubs where foreign hostesses pour drinks and make conversation with Japanese men. He has said he met Blackman once at a club but denied responsibility for her disappearance and death.

Obara was already under arrest in connection with a series of rapes—three of them involving foreign women. He has also been accused of raping six other women. He has pleaded innocent to those charges. *AP*

Jury finds Algerian guilty of plotting to bomb US sites

LOS ANGELES—Jurors found an Algerian man guilty Friday on nine charges including conspiracy to commit international terrorism for plotting to bomb US sites during the year 2000 millennium celebrations.

Ahmed Ressam, 33, also was found guilty of bringing 59 kg of explosives into the United States.

Hours earlier, a French court also convicted Ressam in absentia on terrorism-related charges and sentenced him to five years in prison.

With his fists clenched at his sides, Ressam looked down as the guilty verdicts were read and translated into Arabic through the earphones he wore throughout the three-week trial.

It took the jury only 10 hours of deliberations over two days to reach its verdict in the complex case.

In a statement late Friday, FBI Director Louis Freeh praised efforts by US law enforcement to apprehend Ressam, saying their detective work "represents the superb efforts of prosecutors, and of law enforcement and intelligence officers from around the world." *AFP*

Versace estate fetches $10M

NEW YORK—The estate of slain fashion designer Gianni Versace fetched more than $10 million at auction, the Sotheby's auction house said.

Most of the pieces were from Versace's Miami estate, Casa Casuarina, the 12-bedroom, 13-bathroom Ocean Drive mansion that the designer's family stripped of its interiors before selling last year.

Versace, 50, was slain in July 1997 on the front steps of the South Beach palazzo by 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan. The Versace family sold the 20,000-square-foot home last year to North Carolina telecommunications mogul Peter Loftin for 19 million dollars.

The late designer was a prolific collector, amassing a prodigious assemblage of tasseled pillows, antique chairs, gilded beds and statuettes during travels to Greece, Asia, Africa and Europe. Many of the furniture pieces were covered with fabrics of his own design.

Items on sale ranged from a mid-19th century Anglo-Indian brass and bone inlaid rosewood settee, to an oil painting by the French master Antoine Dubost.

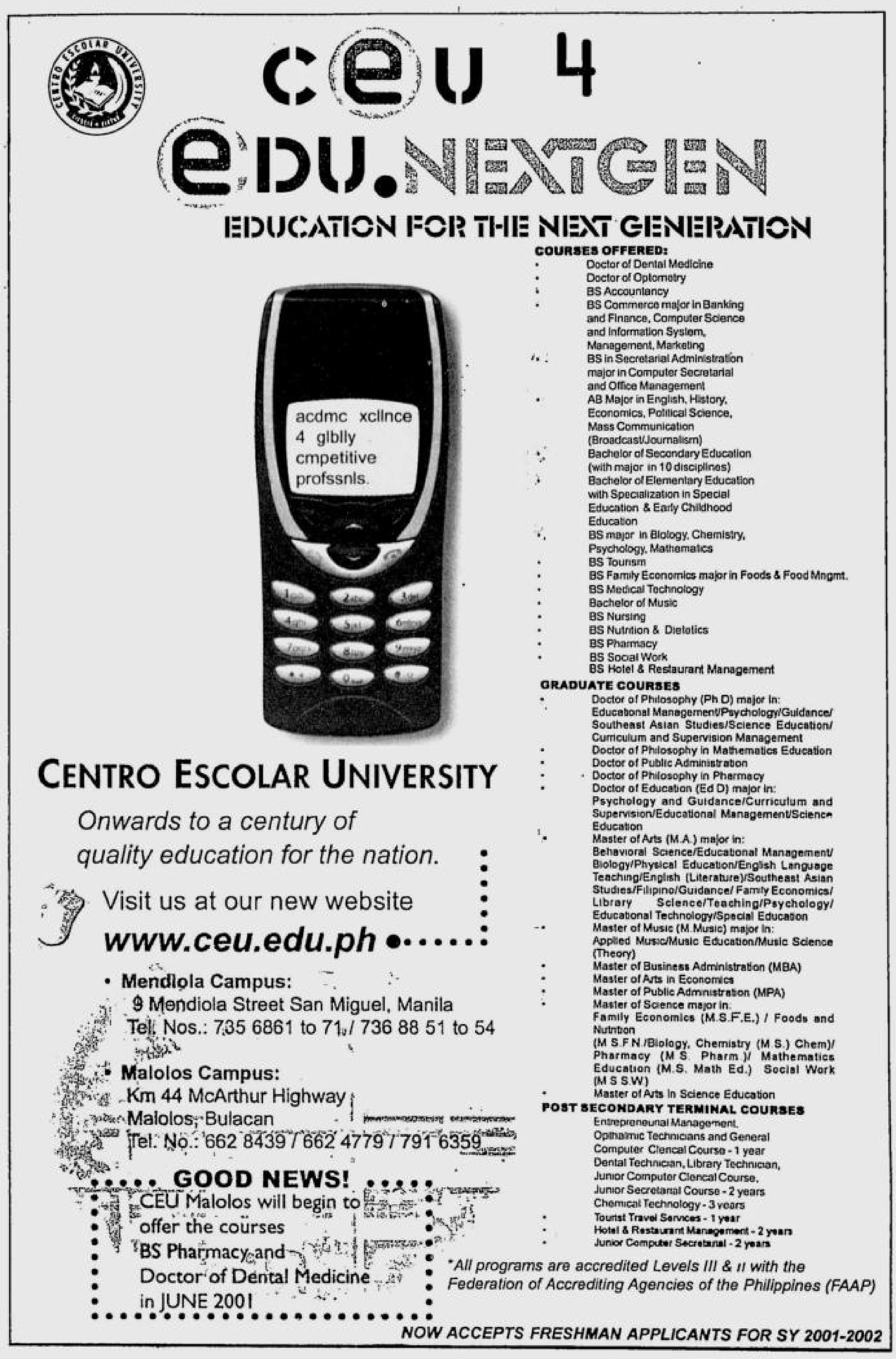
Sotheby's had predicted the auction would raise between five and seven million dollars, but clearly underestimated the enthusiasm of collectors and hardcore Versace fans.

"Gianni Versace was not only a popular cultural figure, he was also greatly admired for his style," said Gillian Arthur, senior vice president for Sotheby's, in recent comments about the designer.

"He may have worked in fashion, but his sense of style and creativity spilled over into his private collection. That's what makes this collection so unique and desirable.

It's not just because it's Gianni Versace's. It's also his whole gestalt: His look, his spirit, his creativity, his style, his fun," Arthur said.

Proceeds from the sale will be donated to PAX, a New York-based group that promotes gun safety, and to the National Center for Victims of Crime, in Arlington, Virginia. *AFP*



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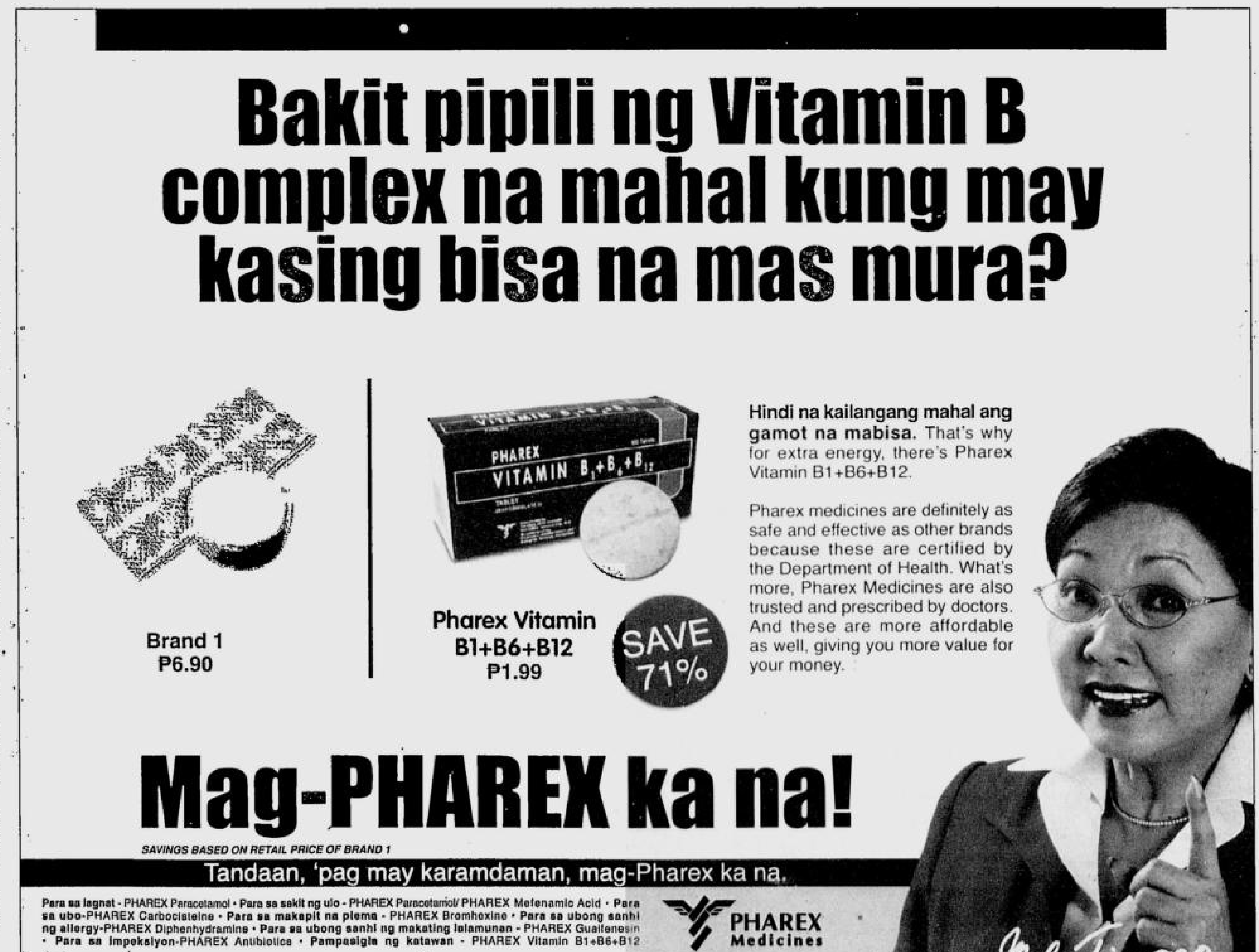

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Gloria, son endorse rivals

PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IS THIS a case of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing? Mother and son endorse rival candidates for mayor of Angeles City as local feuds heat up.

ANGELES CITY—It's the endorsement of President Macapagal-Arroyo against the endorsement of her son Juan Miguel or "Mikey," in the mayoral race here for the May 14 elections.

While Ms Macapagal has endorsed the reelection bid of incumbent Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, the young Arroyo, who is running for vice governor of Pampanga, has endorsed the bid of barangay captain Robin Nepomuceno.

Both Lazatin and Nepomuceno are running as "official candidates" of the Lakas-NUCD.

Lazatin was able to secure a certificate of nomination and acceptance from the Lakas-NUCD that was signed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Lakas party chair. On the other hand, Nepomuceno has a certification signed by Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, the ruling party's provincial chairman.

Lazatin and Nepomuceno, chair of Barangay Cutcut here, used their respective certifications when they filed their certificates of candidacy at the Commission on Elections office here earlier.

The certificates they presented to the poll body make them both official candidates of the Lakas-NUCD.

The INQUIRER obtained two photographs, one showing Ms Macapagal raising the hand of Lazatin as endorsement for the May 14 elections while the other showing Mikey Arroyo and Lapid raising the hands of Nepomuceno.

Lazatin and Nepomuceno are both claiming in their campaign sorties here that the other is a "fake" official candidate of the ruling party.

It was learned that Guingona and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, also a Lakas official, earlier gave Lapid the authority to choose the official candidates of the ruling party in Pampanga, including Angeles City.

Evidently, however, this authority was not realized because Lazatin's certificate was signed by Guingona himself.

The same case applies in Candaba town where two Lakas-NUCD candidates are vying for the mayoral post.

Reelectionist Mayor Bienvenido Gatus has a certificate signed by Lapid while his rival, businessman Jerry Pelayo, used a certificate signed by Jose Ma. Rufino, Lakas-NUCD executive director. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Man who admitted rape-slaying of 77-yr-old woman gets death

By Chito Fuentes

PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo had vowed that no one will be executed during her term but this did not stop a Regional Trial Court judge here from meting the death sentence on a man who admitted he raped and killed a 77-year-old woman in October last year.

Rey Apatay, 25, was meted the sentence on April 5 by Bohol RTC Executive Judge Baudilio Dosdos for the rape-slaying of Catalina Baluran on Oct. 20, 2000.

Dosdos said he sentenced Apatay to death because he was morally convinced that the accused was guilty, "not only by (the) words (from) his own mouth but also by the physical evidence" presented in the case.

Interviewed at the Tagbilaran City jail, Apatay calmly accepted his fate.

"What can (I) do, I committed the crime," Apatay told the INQUIRER in Cebuano.

But Apatay said he was still hoping that his sentence would be reduced to life imprisonment.

The records of the case showed that on the night of her death, Baluran was alone in her house in Sitio Upper Poblacion I, Sikatuna, Bohol in the early evening of Oct. 20, 2000 as the rest of her household took a niece to the hospital for asthma.

Before the ailing girl was taken to the hospital, two witnesses said they saw their neighbor Apatay standing near the door of Baluran's house.

The following morning, Baluran was nowhere to be found and a search ensued. Apatay even helped in the search. Baluran's body was found two days later in a nearby abandoned toilet.

Dr. Francisco Romulo Villaflor, acting health officer of Sikatuna town, said Baluran died of massive hemorrhage due to multiple skull fracture. Villaflor also confirmed that Baluran was sexually attacked.

Apatay, with the assistance of his counsel, later confessed that he raped Baluran. He said he killed her when he sensed that she recognized him. He choked Catalina, struck her with a piece of firewood and threw her body into the hole of an abandoned toilet.

Apatay said he became guilty when he helped in the search, leading him to confess his crime to two people, including a policeman.

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EYESORE

Elections open the floodgates to all sorts of campaign stuff, including posters that dirty surroundings, including these pasted on a public school fence in Kidapawan City.

Misamis fish population dwindling

MANTICAO, Misamis Oriental—Unless stopped, the already dwindling fish population in this province would soon be depleted due to rampant dynamite fishing.

"Dynamite fishing is still rampant in some parts of Misamis Oriental," admits Camar Magarang, chief of the fisheries division of the Provincial Agricultural and Natural Resources Office (Panro).

Residents of this town said one has to just "sit along the beach to see and hear dynamite blasting."

Panro and Bantay-Dagat personnel in Manticao have identified 20 fishermen who used dynamite in fishing and three dynamite suppliers.

In the town of El Salvador, local police have apprehended suspected dynamite users.

But Panro personnel said for various reasons, the apprehended suspects have been freed from jail.

The Center for Alternative Rural Technology (CART), instead of going after those engaged in blast fishing, run after operators of commercial boats that enter the fishing area, 15 kilometers from the shoreline and which is reserved for small fishermen.

CART said operators of commercial fishing boats would get some 5,000 to 10,000 kilos of fish a night. This volume, CART said, can sustain 200 small time fishermen.

Magarang said because of the entry of commercial fishing boats, "nothing's left for the small fishermen."

CART was instrumental in filing eight cases in courts against operators and personnel of commercial fishing boats encroaching in areas reserved for small fishermen. *Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Farmers assured of enough water

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Department of Agriculture and the National Irrigation Administration assured farmers that the NIA and the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System would provide sufficient water to irrigate 33,000 hectares of agricultural land in Cagayan Valley. The continuous flow of water will increase production by 6 percent during the expected El Niño period, said DA regional director Gumercinda Lasam and NIA Director Vicente Galvez. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cagayan's most wanted fall

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police arrested recently Cagayan's three most wanted men. They are Jomar Domingo, who has a prize of P180,000 on his head for homicide, in Barangay Catalinganan in Lasam town; Romeo Lagundi, with P40,000 on his head for homicide, in Piat town; and Edito Eugenio, with P20,000 on his head, in Gonzaga town. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

War on illegal fishing waged

IBA, Zambales—Fishermen in the province have called on the government to save marine resources by waging an all-out war against illegal fishing operations here. The Pampangisdaang Reporma, Adhikain ng mga Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Zambales asked Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor to stop illegal fishing in 11 coastal towns in the province. Jun Evangelista, the group's chair, said illegal fishing is rampant in the towns of Sta. Cruz, Candelaria, Masinloc, Palauig, Iba, Botolan, Cabangan, San Felipe, San Narciso, San Antonio and Subic. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 34° Lo 25°	Baguio Hi 26° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao Hi 34° Lo 23°
Laoag Hi 34° Lo 23°	Clark Zone Hi 34° Lo 25°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 24°	Bacolod Hi 34° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 33° Lo 26°
Cebu Hi 33° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 32° Lo 24°	Gen. Santos Hi 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga Hi 36° Lo 26°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 34° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Baguio braces for 'invasion' of lowlanders

BAGUIO CITY—Water will not be a problem in this mountain resort city during the peak tourist season, especially during Holy Week.

Albert Arenas, assistant manager of the Baguio Water District, assured residents and visitors that the city's three main water pumping stations would be fully operational 24 hours a day starting today, Holy Monday.

During normal times, the city needs to consume 35,000 cubic meters of water a day, which is rationed to users, Arenas said.

For the Holy Week, he said water would flow from every faucet to answer the need for 76,000 cubic meters.

While water would not be a problem, parking areas and hotel accommodations will be a source of concern as the city braces itself for the influx of 130,000 visitors expected here in April alone.

The city's Summer Vacation Program (Sumvac) has enlisted the help of 3,000 volunteers and 37 communication groups to assist visitors and motorists along Kennon Road and Marcos Highway, two main routes from Metro Manila leading to this mountain resort city.

The regional Department of Tourism and the police have agreed to be on a "24-hour duty watch" even as visitors were warned of fly-by-night operators of transient inns who charge visitors unreasonable room rates. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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N. Luzon folk OK 3 new cities

BAGUIO CITY—Northern Luzon has three new cities after residents of Alaminos in Pangasinan, Candon in Ilocos Sur, and Cauayan in Isabela endorsed their respective towns' cityhood bids in plebiscites held last week.

Alaminos town, where the Hundred Islands National Park is located, became Pangasinan's fourth city while Candon and Cauayan became the second cities of Ilocos Sur and Isabela.

In Pangasinan, Commission on Elections records showed that only 35 percent of Alaminos' 33,353 registered voters cast their votes on Wednesday last week.

Records showed that 8,465 residents voted "yes" for Alaminos' cityhood, while 3,483 residents voted "no."

Only two of the town's 33 barangays rejected the cityhood bid.

Mayor Eduardo Fontelera said heavy rains during the plebiscite contributed to the low turnout of voters.

"Besides, a plebiscite is unlike regular elections where there are personalities who are voted for," he said.

Rally

The rally of the People Power Coalition's senatorial candidates that coincided with the plebiscite also affected the turnout, Fontelera said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza reportedly organized the PPC rally in the town. Braganza, a former representative of the first district of Pangasinan, sponsored Republic Act 9025 that converted Alaminos into a component city when he was still a congressman.

Clarita Fajardo, president of the federation of non-government organizations in Alaminos that led the opposition to the cityhood bid, said she was still happy over the plebiscite's outcome because "at least democracy is alive in the town."

"We were able to awaken the citizenry to get involved in the issues arising in the town and I know that from now on, they will be involved and not adopt a lackadaisical attitude whenever issues that affect them arise," she said.

Candon

In Ilocos Sur, residents of Candon endorsed the cityhood bid of their town three months after Vigan was converted into a city.

Comelec records showed that 12,057 residents voted for cityhood while 3,084 rejected it. Records also showed 60 percent (15,141 voters) of the town's 25,527 registered voters took part in the plebiscite. The "no" votes won in only one barangay.

Ilocos.Sur Rep. Grace Singson, author of Republic Act 9018 that converted Candon into a city, thanked residents and appealed to include those who staged the anti-cityhood drive to start working for the development of the new city.

"After the people of Candon had spoken, including those who were against its cityhood, we should now start moving for the development of Candon," she said.

Candon is the center of commerce and trade in the second district of Ilocos Sur.

In Isabela, Cauayan town became the second city of the province after residents ratified its conversion into a component city last Friday.

Comelec records showed 12,597 residents endorsed the town's cityhood bid while 2,931 rejected it.

Cauayan became the third city in Cagayan Valley after Santiago City (Isabela), which was converted into a city in 1995, and Tuguegarao City (Cagayan), which became a city in 1999.

The cityhood bid of Ilagan, Isabela's capital town, was rejected by its residents in 1998. *Yolanda Fuertes, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Roco says Santiago an 'aberration'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Education Secretary Raul Roco said the people should ignore Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's warning of a civil war if disgraced President Joseph Estrada was arrested for various criminal charges.

"No one should take her seriously. If you will, she will shoot herself if it's 13-0 (referring to the straight 13-0 vote for the administration's People Power Coalition senatorial bets). Some people are precisely voting 13-0 because of that," Roco told reporters before he joined President Macapagal-Arroyo for breakfast hosted by Archbishop Paciano Aniceto here on Thursday.

Roco, one of the senator-judges in the aborted Senate impeachment trial of Estrada, said it was "not appropriate" for Santiago to be issuing such a warning.

Santiago aired threats of a civil war when she spoke Wednesday in the campaign rally of the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa in Roxas City.

"That is not weapon in a democratic society," Roco said. "Just consider her (as) an aberration."

He said Santiago "kept talking out of turn."

He said the prosecution of Estrada must go on because "we must demonstrate to the whole world that the Philippines, after People Power II, knows how to follow the law."

He explained that it was not the Macapagal administration that was prosecuting Estrada.

Estrada was being prosecuted because, according to Roco, the deposed President "committed violations of the law."

"He brought it upon himself," he said of Estrada's plunder case and seven other criminal charges that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto filed Wednesday at the Sandiganbayan.

Roco said there was *prima facie* evidence against Estrada. He said he expected that Estrada would be arrested this week.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., a PPC senatorial candidate, dismissed Santiago's idea of a civil war and warning of a revolution by former first lady Loi Ejercito, a Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidate, in the face of her husband's arrest.

"This is more in their minds. I can understand them because they belong to the Puwersa ng Masa. Maybe they must have seen the 'Patriot' on video that's why they were thinking of civil war and revolution," Magsaysay said.

He said the Filipino people are "tired of such remarks."

Former Speaker Manuel Villar, also a PPC senatorial candidate, said the civil war and revolution being espoused by Santiago and Ms Estrada were "very remote to happen."

"You would be out of touch if you said that," Villar said. "There would not be any civil unrest. That's exaggerated." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Baguio bans rallies during Holy Week

BAGUIO CITY—For the first time in many years, this favorite summer trek of lowlanders will impose a policy of "silence and solemnity" for the Lenten season.

This move is expected to stop rallies scheduled here next week by the opposition Puwersa ng Masa coalition and the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC), city officials said Saturday.

The policy is embodied in new regulations drawn up to control political rallies in the city, which is expected to draw close to 700,000 visitors, mostly from Metro Manila, this Lenten season, said Virgilio Bautista, city administrator.

Bautista said the regulations prohibit "concerts and campaign rallies" here April 9-14.

"This will affect even local campaigns. Even Mayor Mauricio Domogan directed city employees to make sure his own campaign posters and banners are removed if they find them during the Holy Week ban," Bautista said.

Domogan is running for the city's lone congressional seat against human rights lawyer Pablito Sanidad, both claiming the support of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP.

"The political parties have not yet been formally advised about the new policy. They (campaigning groups) will have to coordinate with us first, so we can brief them about it . . . We are not censoring rallies or concerts or any activity. We are simply regulating them based on their noise-building capabilities," Bautista said.

Residents have been preparing for an "unusually loud" summer season, because it falls within the campaign period, he said.

In the past, the city had accommodated travelling circuses or touring amusements carnivals, corporate-sponsored concerts and even the live broadcast of popular television programs on Good Friday and Black Saturday.

In the last seven years, the biggest crowd drawers had been pop rock concerts being staged at Burnham Park by a popular beverage company *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

COMMON FACTOR

Rival senatorial candidates share one thing in common—their desire to get the support of the Catholic Church for their candidacies. That seems to be the agenda of People Power Coalition candidate Joker Arroyo (top photo) during his one-on-one meeting with Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal. It was also apparently the agenda of ousted President Joseph Estrada (right photo) who brought to Vidal his candidates Ricardo "Dong" Puno (kissing Vidal's hand) and lone female Muslim senatorial candidate Santanina Rasul.

PHOTOS FROM JOKER AND PUWERSA CAMPAIGNS

Reelectionist solon gives way to spouse

CABANATUAN CITY—Reelectionist Nueva Ecija Rep. Julita Lorenzo-Villareal raised the eyebrows of her constituents in the fourth district of the province when she endorsed the candidacy of her husband for the same post.

Julita and her husband, Raul, a businessman, filed their separate certificates of candidacy for the congressional post on Feb. 28, with Julita as a candidate of the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) and Raul as a candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

On April 3, Julita announced in her hometown of San Isidro that she was supporting the candidacy of her husband.

But the congresswoman declined to categorically say if she would withdraw from the race against her husband and three other candidates.

"Silent *muna ako diyan* (I would be silent on that issue)," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview, adding that she would become her husband's campaign manager in the coming elections.

Political observers here earlier predicted that Raul would withdraw from the race to support his wife who is seeking her third and last term.

But Raul, in a separate interview with the INQUIRER, said his wife would withdraw from the race.

"She will definitely withdraw. We will announce it later," he said.

Raul, 59, said the decision for him to run for the congressional seat instead of his wife was reached during a meeting last week with the family's municipal and barangay coordinators in the fourth district.

Nueva Ecija's fourth district is composed of the towns of Gapan, San Isidro, Cabiao, Jaen, San Antonio, San Leonardo, Peñaranda and Gen. Tinio.

Raul said the "overwhelming consensus" in the district was for him to push through with his candidacy instead of Julita's.

"She is my ardent campaign manager now," he said.

Other candidates for the congressional seat are Gregorio Manuel (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino), a son of a former Gapan mayor and brother of Rep. Josefina Manuel-Joson of the first district; Eboy Esquivel (Lakas-NUCD), son of former Jaen Mayor Antonio Prospero Esquivel; and retired Judge Lamberto Magbitang, an independent candidate.

Although Raul had been endorsed by his wife, the Balane party which has a standing coalition with the NPC refused to adopt him as the party's candidate.

As a result, Balane declared the fourth district as an "open zone." *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMPAIGN PERMIT

Reb demand for fees reaches Leyte

By Jani Arnaiz
and Felix Codilla III
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—The New People's Army has required candidates to secure conduct passes and to pay access fee before campaigning in rebel-controlled areas in Leyte.

In a statement, the NPA Mt. Amandewin Command (MAC) of the Northern Leyte Front explained that the giving of safe conduct passes and the paying of the access fees were measures meant to "protect the interest of the marginalized majority."

The measures, the statement said, were ordered in a directive issued by the Efren Martires Regional Command-Eastern Visayas and were meant to prevent treachery and violence during the elections.

One Dodong Malaaya, the alleged spokesperson of the NPA-MAC, signed the statement, copies of which were distributed to the local media.

According to the statement, the access fee is a revolutionary tax, which "a revolutionary government has the right to collect from individuals and entities it identifies."

It said the access fee would be imposed to prevent inflation because the candidates would be wasting "people's money" in their campaign activities

The communist group also warned that candidates and politicians who refused to pay, would be answerable to the NPA. The statement did not say what penalty would be imposed on candidates who refused to pay.

The statement also warned the public against "impostors" who identify themselves as members of the communist group so they could collect access fees.

It said these impostors were already included in the list of the NPA's targets.

The candidates would also be required to have safe conduct passes before they could campaign in NPA territories.

The statement said this was to prevent dirty tricks that may be employed to fool the public.

Those who would be issued safe conduct passes would be prohibited from committing "counter-revolutionary moves against the rebels or any criminal activities against the people."

These candidates were also forbidden to bring along firearms as well as personnel and intelligence agents from the Army and the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

The statement also called on the military and police not to allow themselves to be used by politicians to tarnish the electoral process and incite terror among the people.

It also reminded them of their duty to expose the improprieties of candidates who come from their ranks, specifically mentioning former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson as an example

It advised authorities to give the people their right to choose the candidates and political parties they deemed fit for elective positions.

Firetruck noise leads to beating

CEBU CITY—Supporters of the Progressive Movement for the Devolution of Initiatives (Promdi) ganged up on a fireman who allegedly disrupted a rally Thursday night in Toledo City, 50 kilometers southwest of here.

FO3 Ricardo Vega suffered a cut in his arm after a Promdi supporter attacked him with a metal sprocket. Another supporter punched him twice.

Promdi officials also planned to seek his relief from the Toledo fire department and to file an administrative case against him for electioneering.

Promdi supporters viewed the presence of a firetruck, driven by Vega, with its wailing siren near the rally site as a form of harassment by their political rivals.

The firetruck parked near the Promdi rally site in Barangay Poblacion, Toledo at the height of the speech of former Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, Promdi chair who is backing Ricardo Rafols for Toledo mayor.

Gov. Pablo Garcia accused the opposition party, Alayon, of instigating the harassment, which he claimed was the work of Toledo Mayor Aurelio Espinosa, who is running for vice mayor under the Alayon ticket.

Espinosa denied the charges, saying the fire department is not under his control. He added he was also in his own rally in Barangay Don Andres Soriano when the incident happened. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Nestor Ramirez and Nagiel Bañacia, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Holy war' waged on cheats

MARAWI CITY—A group here has declared a "holy war" against cheating in the coming May 14 elections.

In declaring the "holy war" on Saturday, the Islamic Movement on Electoral Reform for Good Government (IMERGG) said it would quote the Holy Koran in its campaign against cheating and violence during the elections.

IMERGG chair Lax Dalidig said his group has already started its campaign on radio, cable television and through posters and leaflets.

Dalidig said the Koran forbids cheating and violence.

The IMERGG recently bought 300 units of hand-held radio. But Dalidig would not say where his group got funding for its campaign drive.

"We tell the people not to vote (for) corrupt officials, drug lords and those who bribe the voters," Dalidig said.

"We declare a holy war against election cheats here in Lanao," he said as some 30 IMERGG municipal leaders raised their fists.

The IMERGG is an accredited group of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel). *Violeta Gloria, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A job for 'clean polls' in Iloilo

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A crew of 15 is literally working for clean elections in this city by preparing more than a thousand ballot boxes for the May 14 elections.

The work entails cleaning the dusty ballot boxes, sawing off their rusty locks, burning their contents and repainting them. The crew has at least a month to prepare the ballot boxes for distribution on May 13.

The 1,342 ballot boxes, stored at the city's warehouse, were used in the 1992 national elections and 1995 barangay elections.

Among the contents of the boxes were ballots used in the 1992 presidential elections that were preserved because of the election protest filed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago against former President Fidel Ramos.

Santiago's case was dismissed by the Supreme Court following her decision to run for the Senate in 1995 and for president in 1998.

Also in the warehouse, but left untouched, were ballot boxes in the 1998 elections that were the subject of an election protest filed by Roberto Pagdanganan against Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta before the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

G. Bert Arbis, the city's acting election officer, said he was told by the Commission on Elections central office to recycle the old ballot boxes because there were no new ones coming from Manila.

Officially, there are only 1,101 precincts in the Iloilo City after the Comelec clustered the smaller precincts. Arbis said he prepared 241 more ballot boxes in case the clustering would not be followed.

Arbis said the contents of the ballot boxes will be burned except for the election returns and the minutes of the poll counting.

Watchers of city candidates will be allowed to observe the burning, according to Catherine Tingson, the assistant city treasurer who oversees the clean-up, her work every election time since 1992.

The clean up costs the city treasurer's office P500,000. Most of the money would be used for salaries and to purchase yellow paint for the used ballot boxes.

Aside from the 15 personnel assigned to dust off the boxes and burn its contents, an additional 18 person will be assigned to give the boxes a fresh coat of paint, Tingson said.

Independents pool resources

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato—Independent candidates here pooled resources and organized their own motorcade and proclamation rally Saturday.

Incumbent Vice Mayor Jaime Catulong, who is seeking a seat in the municipal council, said independent candidates who have no political party to back their campaign sorties, agreed to "work hand-in-hand" to generate impact in what he described as "crowded" campaign activities here.

Two political parties are fighting it out in Midsayap's local politics—the Lihok Cotabato and the Nationalist People's Coalition.

About two dozen independent candidates for vice mayor and councilors have joined the parade around this town asking for support from voters.

"We believe if we pooled our resources, we could send a message than (if we) campaigned individually," Catulong said, adding that "it is unprecedented in Midsayap's political history."

Catulong said three independent vice mayoral candidates are part of the group.

"We are pushing for a new kind of political campaign," Catulong said. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Vigilance sought in fight vs power firm abuses

A SENATOR yesterday said the ability of Filipinos to band together and oppose any form of oppression and exploitation should be harnessed to protect and promote the rights of consumers and stop all forms of abuses and malpractices of public utility firms, especially electric power distributors.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who is now running for reelection under the Puwersa ng Masa and an opponent of the Omnibus Power Bill, said Filipinos should unite also against abuses committed against consumers.

"Politics will not solve all our problems. It is not the only arena where our rights are asserted. Defending our rights as consumers and opposing all forms of abuses and exploitation by public utility firms is a crucial aspect of a real, people-centered democracy," Enrile said in a statement.

Enrile said foremost among these is the right of consumers to enjoy efficient and reliable electric services at fair and reasonable rates.

He said while the government is duty bound to protect consumers against undue exploitation by public utility firms, it is through people's vigilance that consumer rights are best protected.

"Only a united and vigilant people can effectively stop these malpractices," Enrile said.

Enrile said harnessing people power to promote and protect consumer interests is necessary in the light of the impending passage of the controversial Omnibus Power Bill when Congress reconvenes after the May elections.

He said the Omnibus Power Bill in its present form contains a number of anti-consumer provisions that will not only strengthen but institutionalize the abuse and exploitation of the Filipino people by power utility firms.

It will also pave the way for the creation of new monopolies and highly questionable rate-setting practices to the detriment of consumers in the country, Enrile said.

Enrile said any attempt to "creatively" maintain or introduce onerous provisions and mechanisms must be opposed and stopped now.

In addition, Enrile said a totally independent Energy Regulatory Board is needed with the appointment of individuals of proven integrity, honesty and competence. "We should stop the entry of lackeys and henchmen of the major power players in the ERB," Enrile said.

Enrile said President Macapagal-Arroyo owes it to the Filipino people to ensure that all anti-consumer provisions in the Omnibus Power Bill are excised and the rights and protection of consumers are concretely spelled out before signing the measure becomes law.

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In this endeavor, I commend Julie's Bakeshop and their aim of recognizing excellence and leadership among our youth. Mabuhay!

Raul S Roco
RAUL S. ROCO
Secretary

MESSAGE

I am deeply honored to extend my congratulations to the awardees of our very first Julie's Bakeshop Leaders for the Future Award.

Looking back 20 years ago, I started Julie's Bakeshop to help my husband send my six children to school. I have always believed then that the best wealth I can give to my children was the BEST education I could find. I believe that education is a tool in molding future leaders. Today, I am proud to say that my children are at the forefront of our business, leading their own group of bakeshops.

I am also glad to note that this belief is shared by more 100 other franchisees, and espoused in all of our more than 250 branches and outlets nationwide. This is embodied in our Corporate Philosophy, Mission and Vision.

We now extend this belief to our community by recognizing the efforts of over 280 elementary students graduating at the top of their class. This is our profound commitment to God and country to show that education is a valued gift.

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Ma. Joriemel Abad
Tungkop Elementary School
Lizlee Rubia
San Fernando So. Central School
Franiel M. Saura
San Fernando No. Central School
Annabella Tapia
Simala Elem. School
Jufni Rizada
Argao Elem. School
Jessa Mae Flores
Dalaguete Central School
Celestino Centino II
Boljoon Central Elem. School
Bhedigen Joseph Pongot
Nueva Caceres Elem. School
Fe Marie D. Dumaboc
Oslob Central School
James C. Figues
Mabolo Elem. School
Carmele Garces
St. Francis of Assisi School
Rommel Paras
Tisa II Elementary School
Natt Nelson Banihit
Inayawan Elem. School
Jay Anthony Y. Cavales
Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy
Reina Mae Cinabla
University of San Carlos
Gwennyth Maye M. Franza
University of San Carlos
Kristyll Dale Faith Giango
Lapu-lapu Central School
Irish Ybanez
Pajo Elementary School
Rommel dela Serna
Maribago Elementary School
Maebeth A. Mullero
Marigondon Elementary School
Sherlyn Abing
St. Alphonsus Catholic School
Jeaneth Wagwag
Sawang Calero Elementary School
Jessica Tantano
Mambaling Elementary School
Chadylle Bacalso
Cebu Eastern College
Gileen Mary Go
Alaska Elementary School
Ilyn Cadungog
Pasil Elementary School
Geraldine Estillore
Banawa Elementary School
Joseph G. Lavador
Kalunasan Elementary School
Isabelita T. Laborte
Carcar Central Elementary School
Jellie Degracias
Canduman Elementary School
Mae C. Cortes
Compostela Central School
Jessell R. Quirante
St. Mary's Academy
Arnold Adrian Rallona
Opra Elementary School
Josephine Del Valle
Subangdaku Elementary School
Ma. Faye Flores
Cesar Cabahug Elementary School
Irwin Segne
Mandaue City Central School
Arnel P. Cortes
Punta Princesa Elementary School
Cheyene B. Sanico
Bogo Central II School
Kris D. Andales
Carmen Central School
Ralph Llewel Sabang
Zapatera Elementary School
Sherwin Llanos
San Nicolas Elementary School
Marlou Marabillas
Opao Elementary School
Henny Jane D. Vicente
Tejero Elementary School
Joecelyn Joy A. Elisterio
St. Joseph's Academy
Angelie C. Allego
Don Andres Soriano Elem. School
Gerard Cortez Jr.
Andres Soriano Memorial School
Zeriah Mae Lagro
Naga Central School
Michelle Alferez
Basak Elementary School
Joyce Ann C. Gomez
University of the Visayas
Marian Mae Tumamak
Banilad Elementary School
Emily Torno
Lahug Elementary School
Charmine Acha

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Bais City Pilot School
Mary Ann C. Cruz
Bayawan East City Central School
Mary Joy Benedian

St. Louis - Don Bosco Elem. School
Stephanie May J. Sinda
City Central School
Ma. Analiza Abestano
Felipe Tayko Memorial School
Ann Marjorie I. Futalan
St. Paul College
Leah Bunagan
Sta. Catalina Central School
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Junob Elementary School
Katyana Marie B. Modancia
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Paulo Angelo J. Sosmena
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Joielyn Jie L. Engalla
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Donna Flor Lipat
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Almeria Central School
Charissa Salloman
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Wencel Marie Imboy

SAMAR
Allen Central Elem. School
Lyndon Jay Tayabas
Calbayog East Central School
Brittle Valenciano
Catarman II Central Elem. School
Marian Ladeza
Calbayog Pilot Central School
Anna Miriam T. Cabangangan

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Pagadian Pilot Central School
Bea Barbara L. Calugcug
Sta. Lucia Elementary School
Ian Francis P. Roda

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
Miputak East Central School
Liezel K. Cuenca
St. Vincent's College
Earl Kathrin C. Realista
Estoka Central School
Reanald G. Bolingot
Dipolog City Division Special Educ. Class
Gluztavelle Judeen S. Mercado
Dipolog Pilot Demonstration School
Dominique D. Uy
Sindangan Pilot Demo. School
Levien Gail Ledesma

MISAMIS ORIENTAL
Tagoloan Central School
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West City Central School
Christine Marie Q. Galope
City Central School (Cagayan de Oro)
Ma. Carmela Sue P. Otarra

CAMIGUIN
Mambajao Central School
Ian Lou L. Limbaco
Mahinog Central School
Mark Anthony Palmere

BUKIDNON
Maramag Central Elem. School
Laiza Lou D. Balinas
First Fruits Christian Academy
Daven Ray Ranque
San Agustine Institute of Technology
Evelyn L. Flores
Valencia Baptist Christian Academy
Lehra Sol M. Briones
Bukidnon State College
Vanessa B. Collado
Malaybalay Central School
Christene Ann A. Albit
Valencia City Central School
Mary Elsin A. Abuel

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
Oroquieta City Central Sch.
Daryll Jan B. Dugso
Poblacion 11 Elementary School
Leny Marie Malinis
Ozamis City Central School
Jann Michael S. Carpio
Felipe Carreon Memorial School
Chelou Mugot

DAVAO DEL SUR
Ramon Magsaysay Central Elem. School
Ma. Mae Seedfaith D. Crispino

Mariano Peralta Elementary School
Lyra Fe Diaz
Malita Central School
May Grace Delimas

DAVAO ORIENTAL
Madang Elementary School
Erlie Belangantol
Mati Central Elementary School
Norilyn L. Pabio

SOUTH COTABATO
Dadiangas East Elem. Sch.
Christine V. Mauricio
Dadiangas West Central Elem. Sc.
Flabert Villasencio
Irineo Santiago Elem. School
Jennelyn Tambal
Polomolok Central Elementary School
Lovely Jane Legaspi
Dadiangas So. Central Elem. Sch.
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Iligan City Central School
Roxan M. Dajao
Dona Juana A. Lluch Memorial Central School
Liezel Jean B. Lomboy
Kolambugan Central School
Maricel P. Baguio
Kolambugan Central School
Sheena L. Saler
Kolambugan Central School
Herra G. Espinosa
Maranding Central Elementary School
Ide R. Baguiler
Maigo Central School
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Catherine P. de los Santos
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Junalice Ponte
Kauswagan Elementary School
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Comagascas Elementary School
Jeciel A. Monares
Caasinan Elementary School
Airiz Cagula

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San Nicolas College
Char Therese R. Edillor

Still Fresh at 20
Julie's

‘War is not something we bury in the memory’

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

GUAGUA, Pampanga—Today, Araw ng Kagitingan, wreaths will be offered at the Dambana ng Kagitingan atop Mt. Samat in Bataan.

Two marble walls honoring the "gallant men (who) chose to die rather than surrender" have been polished, their engraved letters given the glint for the annual occasion.

As in most days of the year, the museum is open to the public.

War memorabilia used in "ferocious combat between ill-equipped recruits and seasoned well armed troops" are on display, including rusting anti-aircraft machineguns, recoilless 57-mm rifles, uniforms of soldiers, photos of members of the United States Army Forces in the Far East (Usaffe) who joined the Death March.

In another wall below the stairs leading to the imposing Cross of Samat are five markers of brigades under Maj. Gen. Edward King, who, on April 9, 1942, surrendered the Bataan forces to the 14th Japanese Imperial Army under Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma.

Ironically, while the war also involved Filipinos who joined the Usaffe, their contributions are rendered almost anonymous in the narrative etched on the marble walls. Carefully worded, the narrative does not allude to the extensively recorded atrocities of the Japanese Imperial Army.

But war veteran Romulo Coronel refused to be cloaked in anonymity.

On his meager pension, Coronel, 74, built a plain marker for him and 13 other veterans in the famous woodcarving village of Betis here.

It is the only war memorial standing now in Pampanga. All other war commemorative markings that the National Historical Institute and the Department of National Defense put up in the main thoroughfares of the province during the 1960s have been worn out by neglect and time.

Coronel built the marker in 1985 on a one-meter lot in front of his home in Barangay San Nicolas. It is largely made of ordinary cement painted in off-white.

On his savings, Coronel managed to ask the town's engraver to make a marble plaque that he placed at the center of the little edifice. He ringed the marker with metal chains fastened to four small marble balustrades.

Around the marker, he also planted ornamental plants that he trims and waters daily.

"I put it up not to honor us but to make people remember that from this town, there were young men who defended the country," Coronel said of him and the 13 men who were with the 6th Infantry Battalion's 320 Squadron of the Luzon Guerrilla Armed Forces.

Like Julian Caranay, Pablo Vitug, Pablo Taruc, Pantaleon Rivera, Mariano Ocampo, Gerardo Coronel, Jacinto de Dios, Ruperto Cruz, Gavino Nuestro, Arcado Cruz, Lorenzo Santiago, Jose Santiago and Gwing Pangilinan, Coronel was 16 years old when he fought in the war.

All 14 men survived the war and the guerrilla battles. At least seven have died of old age, most of them without pensions.

He said he has had quarrels with his wife Celestina over the cost of constructing and maintaining the marker.

When Celestina argues with him, he said this was all he could tell her:

"Courage must be remembered so the young people can have something to emulate and to be proud of. The war is not something we bury in the memory. If they do forget that once there was a war and that there were Filipinos who fought for the Motherland, then that's sad because history has many lessons to teach," he said in Kapampangan.

WAR veteran Romulo Coronel, shown with a Japanese visitor, does not want his comrades to be forgotten. TONETTE OREJAS

Malaria and other war tales

(From page A1)

patients were discharged, only to be quickly replaced by new ones.

I was wondering why our loud American commanding officer, who was old enough to be our father, did not succumb to the malaria. One afternoon, I accidentally espied him in his tent taking a swig from a whisky bottle he kept in a duffle bag. The mystery was solved.

Death ravine

I had opted to join a friend, a medical enlisted man, in the Mariveles sector after our surrender at Bataan. We left in an Army truck after thousands of our comrades had started on what would turn out to be the infamous "Death March."

My friend and I shuttled the sick and wounded to the Little Baguio Hospital not far away. We would load the walking patients and those with minor wounds on the truck first in order to accommodate as many patients as it could hold.

On our last trip, the truck was filled with stretchers and other serious cases when we decided to spend the night by the side of a winding dirt road. We found a spot under a big tree and the patients fell asleep in the back of the six-by-six truck.

In the middle of the night, when we were comfortably asleep, a speeding truck (I don't know if it was driven by a Japanese or a Filipino) rounded the bend, overshot it and crashed into our truck, overturning it.

The patients were thrown out of the vehicle which, in turn, plunged into a deep ravine. The speeding truck did not stop but sped away. Cries of pain and shouts for help rent the air, waking us up. With a flashlight, my friend and I searched for the patients in the ravine, guided by their cries.

We lifted the seriously injured and laid them by the side of the road. The trees in the ravine had prevented the patients from rolling to the bottom of the chasm.

Several patients were already dead, perhaps even before the accident. As it was midnight, no help was available and we waited until early morning when a passing truck stopped to help.

It was the first time in our lives that my friend and I carried bodies.

Meeting the enemy

When the order to surrender came, we were at our defense line in the Bagac sector. We were artillerymen, but we lost most of our 75-mm guns in our hasty and demoralized retreat.

Our commanding officer gave the order to destroy all our arms and equipment to deny the enemy their use. Firing pins were removed from our few remaining artillery pieces and thrown away; the bolts of our Enfield rifles of WWI vintage were removed and discarded; our Big Berthas, as the 11-inch guns were called, stuffed with stones and gunpowder and blown up. Ammunition was buried or thrown into the sea.

A set of fancy glassware owned by our commanding officer was thrown into the bushes. My personal firearm, a .45 cal. pistol with a belt of ammunition, I buried under a big tree with the intent of retrieving it later. That was the last time I saw it, though, because 50 years later I haven't had a chance to return for it even though I clearly marked the spot.

GASENDO

We were lined up in formation in the morning when a Japanese officer, with aides and bodyguards, came to our camp to check us out. For most of us, it was the first time to see the enemy in person, for as artillerymen, we were always behind the infantry lines.

Shabby uniforms

During the first landing of the invaders in La Union and northern Pangasinan, some of our infantrymen were able to strip a complete uniform off the body of a Japanese soldier. It was prominently displayed in our camp for all to see.

The Japanese soldiers, mostly bearded veterans of the Manchurian campaign, where shabbily dressed. Two-inch woolen breeches wrapped around drab olive pants, caps with a shade for the nape, and thick black-rimmed glasses were their trademark.

They carried .25 cal. bolt-action rifles which our men called "pick bong" because of the dull sound they made when fired.

The rifles were, to some extent, characteristic of Japanese practicality. The .25 cal. rifle was a little bigger than our .22 cal. sportsman rifle but it had fewer parts and weighed less. In raw materials-starved Japan at the time, they had come up with a practical solution to an otherwise serious problem.

While we in the Usaffe had our aluminum kits into which communal food was ladled in the mess line, the Japanese carried individual aluminum containers with rice and water already mixed in a pouch tied to their waists. This they could cook alone in the field or, if in camp, over a big fire at the end of tree branches.

They also carried wax in small cans which, when lighted, produced a low-burning flame enough to cook the rice without the tell-tale signs of a big fire.

Their viands looked like dried sweet meats and vegetables, which lasted long without need of refrigeration or cooking. In camp they also prepared rice and viands in big open cauldrons.

War veteran sang her way to freedom

(From page A1)

(Big House) in Almendras, Concepcion (Tarlac) which was a garrison then," Milagros recalls.

"Oh, I trembled so much but I sang all the *zarzuela* and *Hukbalahap* (Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon) songs I knew so the Japanese would not kill my father and me."

Her father was a member of the Hukbalahap, an anti-Japanese guerrilla army formed by the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas and the Partido Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, organizations behind the widespread agrarian unrest in Central Luzon, she says.

She joined the Huks on Feb. 14, 1942, or a month after Japanese forces began their assault on Corregidor, the last line of defense of the American and Filipino troops.

Milagros belonged to Squadron 3 under Commander Layug who was based in Concepcion town.

Young courier

She served as a courier and a lookout. Like many girls in her village, she also gathered and delivered food to the fighters.

After an assault carried out near midnight in Barangay Sta. Monica, also in Concepcion, Japanese soldiers captured her and her father along with many other residents.

At the garrison, she says she sang every song she had ever learned, from her mother's lullabies and the Mass to the *zarzuelas* she saw at the town plaza, even the songs she heard from Hukbalahap fighters.

Strangely, one officer, whose name she cannot now remember, particularly liked one guerrilla song.

The song, in part, went this way: "*A otso ning Disyembre/ Linub la reng Hapon/ Keti king Oriente/ Deng eroplano ra/ Mumuna lang dili/ Pimagsakan da kampo ning Army.*"

(On the eighth of December/ the Japanese invaded the Orient/ Their planes led the invasion/ Dropping bombs in the Army camp).

"My voice grew harsh but I sang so they would not kill my father. And they listened to me in silence. Sometimes, they clapped. Most of the time they just nodded. When they got tired of listening to me, they would tell me to go rest," she says.

"They did not teach me Japanese songs. It was very rare that I heard them sing. I don't know if they ever cried from hearing me sing," she added.

Released after two months, Milagros and her father rejoined the Hukbalahap.

In assemblies of the anti-Japanese army, she resumed her singing but this time with the fervor of a young freedom fighter.

By April that year, the 14th Japanese Army under Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma succeeded in forcing thousands of American and Filipino soldiers to surrender Corregidor.

Wounded, hungry and tired, they were made to walk the 200-kilometer distance from Bataan to Camp O'Donnel in Tarlac.

During what became the infamous Death March, many Tarlaqueños helped the soldiers escape and the Hukbalahap challenged the Japanese Army but these are stories for another time, Tan said.

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Prospects of Erap going to jail early not bright

(From page A1)

launching of her "new politics" after her inauguration two months ago. I don't see any evidence of new politics—whatever that means—in the election campaign, and there's a danger that before her first 100 days are over, "new politics" would be as barren as Estrada's slogan "Erap para sa mahirap."

Milosevic's case

Our prospects are set against the background of the dispatch to Belgrade's central prison last week of Slobodan Milosevic, who was deposed by people power last October for stealing the election—something which Ferdinand Marcos did in 1986.

Milosevic is accused of corruption and of plunging Yugoslavia into the ruinous Balkan wars. The government of President Vojislav Kostunica finally sent the army and the police to storm his villa, protected by an arsenal and bodyguards, and arrested him to face trial. Milosevic had been trying to destabilize the Kostunica government for some time.

Before we examine the prospects of Estrada's early dispatch to jail, let's dispose of the threats of revolt. The strongest argument against these threats is a historical one. No revolt in the history of this country, which had undergone colonial subjugation and oppression for nearly five centuries, has ever been staged in support of a thief. No matter how much the Filipinos have been exploited and manipulated, even by those who present themselves as the champion of the underdog, they have never risen in revolt on behalf of grand larceny.

The first revolution we ever had—that of 1896—was sparked by grievances arising from inequities, oppression, injustices and a strong ferment for independence from Spain. One of the triggers of that revolution was the execution of Dr. Jose Rizal, who was a Renaissance man with a non-violent disposition and principles of national liberation. Rizal was the antithesis of Estrada, who is facing eight charges with the Sandiganbayan, including plunder and corruption. The charges are based on weighty and substantial evidence introduced mostly in the impeachment trial of Estrada.

Tradition of revolts

Anyone who uses the word "revolution" as a mobilizing call to prevent Estrada from going to jail is not only standing history on its head but is also degrading the tradition of Filipino revolts. But then, what do you expect from Dr. Loi Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada, JV Ejercito, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Rene Saguisag to provide us with perspectives deeper than the breaking news of the day.

Can you ever imagine Filipinos marching en masse behind the banner calling for the restoration of a predatory regime and a man depicted by the charges as the biggest crook after Ferdinand Marcos? If those people, warning us of revolution because they want their hero to be untouchable and to be above the law, would like to march to the drums of returning us to an era of plunder, let them. But let us leave the masses alone.

The *masa,* who they continue to take for granted as stupid, know better. They had had enough under the counterfeit pro-poor administration of Estrada. They won't be cannon fodder for a counterfeit people's revolution mobilized behind not only a man accused of stealing wealth on a grand scale but also the notion that ex-President Estrada is above the law.

Backlash claim

There's a fatuous claim of a popular backlash against the administration's People Power Coalition senatorial ticket if Estrada were jailed. The backlash is likely to develop if the Macapagal administration shows a flagging will in prosecuting Estrada and making him accountable for the accusations laid against him.

The second scenario that militates against Estrada's early excursion into jail is the cumbersome judicial process in the Sandiganbayan. There are boundless opportunities to delay the trial, among which are nearly endless motions for reconsideration on questions of procedure.

This is why the presiding justice, Francis Garchitorena, has told the public not to have false expectations over a speedy trial. The trial will be lengthy, he says, and will be treated as a normal case, just like any other case, before it. The accused, it is understood, will be given due process.

But due process is not incompatible with speedy trial. The Supreme Court has shown there can be speedy disposition of cases while protecting the constitutional right of due process. It took the court less than two months to decide, 13-0, the question of the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency, and even less time to decide, again with a devastating 13-0 vote, against the motion for reconsideration filed by Estrada's lawyers.

Due process or delay?

Of course, Estrada has said he has been denied due process by the Supreme Court. That is why his family and lawyers are screaming for revolt, i.e., violence, in order to reverse what this country's highest court and political institutions decided when they recognized the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration. Their contemplation of people power is not non-violent but mass hooliganism.

Due process can be twisted. When it was shown by overwhelming evidence during the impeachment trial that Estrada used the powers and influence of the presidency to take kickbacks from *jueteng,* to put pressure on the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to use pension funds to increase the value of stocks in which he had investments, and to acquire assets whose value he didn't report correctly, did he ever think of giving the people of this country due process against looting?

The question of reconciling due process for the accused and giving justice to the people is up before the Sandiganbayan. The case is not business as usual. For the first time in the history of this country, we have come to the point of resolving the issue of whether the notion of the accountability of the highest official of the land can be made to work in our judicial system.

The circumstances leading to the plunder and corruption charges before the Sandiganbayan are extraordinary. The cases were pushed to the court by a constitutional crisis that involved a legislative upheaval, an impeachment trial, a peaceful people's upheaval in the streets, and defections from the military and the Cabinet.

This was not business as usual in political terms. The expeditious decision by the Supreme Court of the cases challenging the Macapagal administration's legitimacy was not business as usual.

What's in issue before the Sandiganbayan is whether it will allow delaying tactics disguised as due process to hamper it from dispensing justice to protect the people from abuse of power.

Meditative role for Estrada

(From page A1)

for the time being, and perhaps write about all the things that have happened in my life."

He made the remark in an interview Friday, when he was also asked if he felt that local church leaders had finally forgiven him for his supposed "immorality."

"In my belief as a Catholic, all of us are sinners here. Nobody is perfect. If all of us are perfect here, I don't think Jesus Christ would have come down. There would have been no need for Jesus Christ to come down if all of us were perfect," Estrada replied.

It seemed, however, that the former president himself was not ready to forgive some of his critics, whom he called "hypocrites."

"So (the mistakes committed) during my days as a movie actor—you overcome that as you grow older, as you mature. It's just that my life is very transparent, unlike those hypocrites, they hide so many things. I'm not a hypocrite, in short," he said.

At the height of his impeachment trial, he said, a "hate campaign" allegedly waged by the Church against his administration was the "most damaging" blow to his presidency.

"Aside from the pastoral letter of the (local) Catholic Church headed by Jaime Cardinal Sin, what was (the) most damaging (blow) was that he waged a hate campaign against me," he said.

Estrada said that Sin had "instructed all Catholic schools, not only on the college and the high school levels, but on the elementary or grade school level" to turn the students against the then president.

"Innocent children were being politicized. You see what the interference of the Church can do to a government, can do to a president?" he added.

He accused the Church of continued interference in government affairs, citing the case of the banning of the film "Live Show."

"The hand of the cardinal is there. He has been interfering in government affairs ever since (I became president)," Estrada said.

Making amends

The deposed president, who has been criticized for supporting several mistresses and their households, also talked about how he viewed his relationships.

The issue of his mistresses, he said, consisted of old, recycled charges.

But he said that he was making amends for these "past mistakes."

"I just said to myself, I cannot correct a mistake with another mistake. I cannot turn from my responsibility to my children born out of wedlock," the deposed president said.

"So, I have to go there and to see them, but not necessarily while having relations again with their mother," he added.

Estrada also repeated that he was giving his children the best education possible.

"So I try to correct it—that mistake—by giving a future to my children born out of wedlock, giving them books, a good education and giving them fatherly love, which any child clamors (for)," he said.

But Estrada, who has been charged with plunder and corruption, complained that more attention was being paid to his personal life than to the way he governed the country.

"Do I have to be explaining this to all the people? I think this is too personal, I think they should only question me on how I (ran) the government and not so much on my personal lifestyle," he told the INQUIRER.

NDF peace panelists here

(From page A1)

"We are very eager to come home. We are very happy to return after many years of staying overseas," the 68-year-old Zumel, who was on a wheelchair, said in Filipino. "We're very happy to see our friends."

He suffered a stroke last year, according to Ruth.

Jalandoni said they had good reasons to be hopeful that the talks with the government will succeed this time.

The military-backed People Power II that ousted President Joseph Estrada and Ms Macapagal's revocation of an all-out-war policy against Moro rebels have set the stage for the resumption of the talks with the NDF in Oslo, Norway, on April 27, according to Jalandoni.

He noted that the People Power II forces were pressing hard to address the roots of the armed conflict and to resume the peace negotiations.

"Now we have seen the positive atmosphere," Jalandoni said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said the ceasefires declared by the government and the NDF, the release of Army Maj. Noel Buan by the New People's Army, the recent trip of government panel to Utrecht and the homecoming of the NDF leaders were good signs for the resumption of talks.

"We are hopeful that the solidarity gathering and the resumption of the peace negotiations will be successful," said lawyer Rene Sarmiento.

Braganza and Sarmiento, both members of the government panel, met the NDF leaders at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Also at the airport were lawyer Romeo Capulong and some other NDF consultants, relatives of Jalandoni and Zumel, and Bishop Maximo Millamena of the NCCP.

Newsman, unionist, revolutionary

This is what the blurb of the underground publication "Liberation" said of Zumel, the man on the cover of its 1986 issue.

"Liberation" used a May 23, 1971 photo of the newsman speaking at Plaza Miranda, surrounded by anti-Marcos streamers and symbols.

With his arm outstretched and his finger pointing to the crowd, his hair in place and sporting sideburns, Zumel cut a handsome figure. "Liberation" also ran Zumel's abbreviated memoirs.

Zumel is considered one of the founders of the NDF. At 68, he is perhaps the oldest in the leftist revolutionary movement, that is, if the ones from the old communist party are to be excluded. One of Zumel's underground aliases was "Nonong."

Zumel was in the leadership of the underground movement, while his younger brother, Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel (whom he called Yob) was a trusted Marcos man.

Proofreader

Zumel's career as a newsman started at the Philippines Herald where he rose from copyboy to proofreader, and then to reporter. He was president of the National Press Club for two successive terms beginning 1971, at a time the NPC was a voice of political dissent and advocate of press freedom.

Zumel worked "under crackerjack editors, copyreaders and reporters" such as Joe Lansang, Osi Abad Santos, Caring Nuguid, Teddy Benigno, Teodoro Valencia and Chitang Nakpil.

He worked during the day and studied at the Lyceum of the Philippines at night. The ones he considered most supportive of him were Nuguid and Tec Techian who regaled him with stories about former copyboys who had gone on to become good reporters.

Amando Doronila, then with the Daily Mirror and Manila Chronicle (now with the INQUIRER), was among his colleagues. Zumel learned a lot about newspapering right in the newsroom and by reading journalism books.

Zumel's involvement in unionism in the Soriano-owned publishing business and later in a paralyzing strike made him see things from the eyes of the working class. Zumel later moved to another newspaper where he worked briefly as an editor.

Fake Enrile ambush

Recalled Zumel: "That was how matters stood when, on the night of Sept. 22, 1972, I got a call from our (defense) reporter, Joe de Vera. Enrile had been ambushed. (In 1986, Enrile confessed that the ambush was fake.) I told Joe the whole thing sounded like a lot of bullshit.

"That night, I was quaffing beer with friends at the NPC bar when soldiers swooped down on mass media officers . . . and padlocked all of them. I went underground that same night." Zumel's big regret was that martial law overtook plans to set up a federation of mass media unions.

After Marcos declared martial law, Zumel joined the communist-led underground movement and helped organize the NDF together with people like Satur Ocampo and Carolina "Bobbie" Malay, who were journalists like him.

While many top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NDF would later be captured and tortured by the military and detained once or several times for long stretches, Zumel had always eluded arrest. He was said to be a member of the national executive committee of the NDF.

ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM DAVAO

Still the best low fares in the air.

ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0150	0300	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610		
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810		
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810		
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0500	0640	P3,307	P2,919
	5J - 963	Daily	0700	0840		
	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 567/597*	Daily	1300	1540		
	5J - 967	Daily	1510	1650		
	5J - 969	Daily	1700	1840		
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055		
	5J - 385	Daily	1100	1225		
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320		
	5J - 657	Daily	1400	1510		
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0500	0600	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 455	Daily	1000	1100		
	5J - 457	Daily	1520	1620		
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/T/Th/Sat	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 473	W/F/Sun	0620	0720		
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100		
	5J - 477	Daily	1330	1430		
	5J - 479	Daily	1600	1700		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0600	0730	P3,295	P2,639
	5J - 563/431*	M/W/Th/Sat	0900	1155		
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 353	Daily	1030	1120		
	5J - 341	Daily	1340	1430		

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0350	0500	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810		
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810		
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010		
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039
	5J - 597	Daily	1450	1540		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	1100	1155	P2,388	P2,089
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1750	1825	P1,799	P1,599
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399
KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200	P2,339	P2,039

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919
	5J - 594/564*	Daily	0930	1210		
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 966	Daily	1500	1640		
	5J - 968	Daily	1730	1910		
	5J - 970	Daily	1920	2100		
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039
	5J - 598	Daily	1620	1710		
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1620	1825	P3,295	P2,839
KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	T/F/Sun	0930	1200	P3,588	P2,859
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	0920	1020	P2,388	P2,089
CAGAYAN DE ORO	5J - 182	T/Th/Sat	0920	0955	P2,298	P1,929

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300		
	5J - 386	Daily	1305	1430		
DAVAO	5J - 181	T/Th/Sat	1035	1110	P2,298	P1,929

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510		
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700		

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1140	1240	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 458	Daily	1700	1800		
	5J - 462	Daily	1905	2005		
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0640	0715	P1,799	P1,599
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0640	0850	P3,295	P2,839

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0930	1050	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910		
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250		
	5J - 478	Daily	1520	1620		
	5J - 480	Daily	1750	1850		
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	0810	0940	P3,295	P2,639
	5J - 432/568*	M/W/Th/Sat	1235	1610		
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	1235	1330	P2,388	P2,089
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	1100	1200	P2,388	P2,089

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 354	Daily	1200	1250		
	5J - 342	Daily	1510	1600		
CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330	P2,339	P2,039
DAVAO	5J - 231/597*	T/F/Sun	1250	1540	P3,588	P2,859

*via Cebu

▨ Additional flight effective April 2

NOTES: • All fares do not include government tax and are subject to government approval.
• Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable against Normal Fares only.

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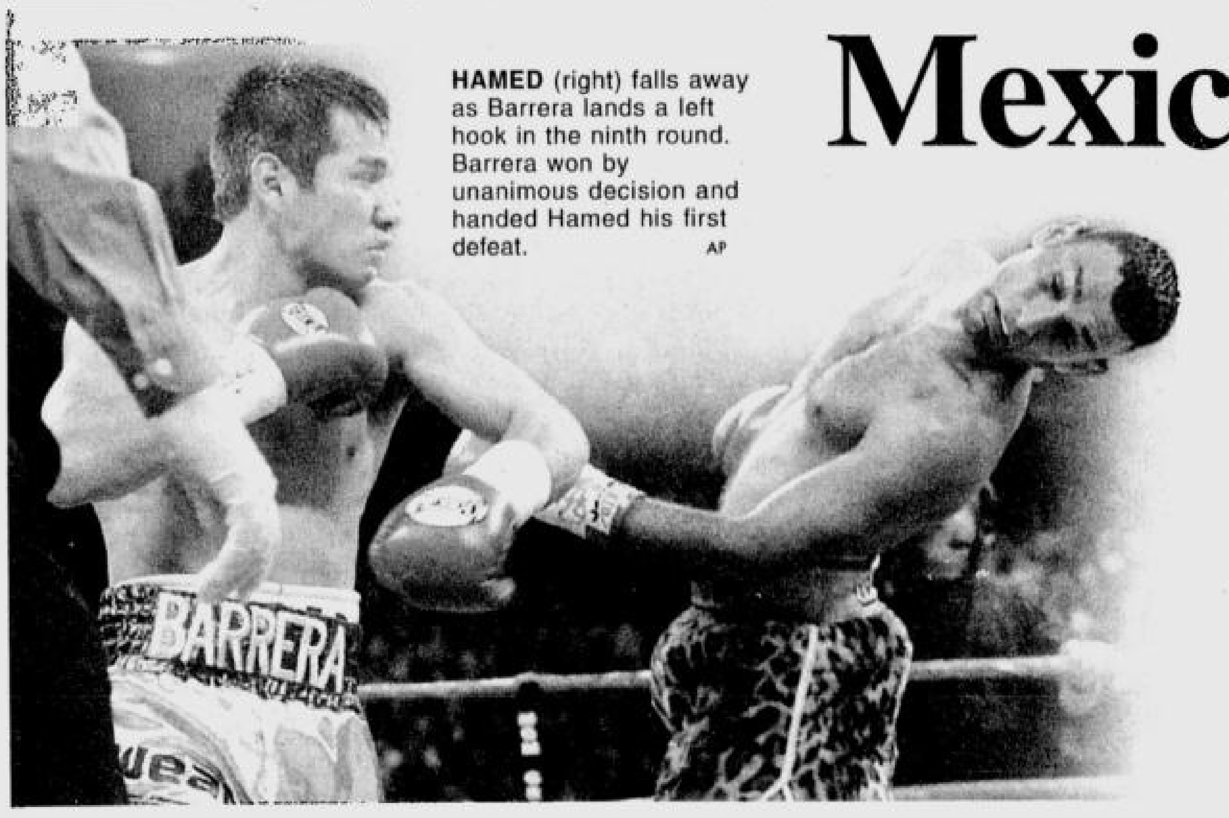
Mexican shocks Hamed



HAMED (right) falls away as Barrera lands a left hook in the ninth round. Barrera won by unanimous decision and handed Hamed his first defeat. AP

LAS VEGAS—The fight went almost exactly as Marco Barrera and his corner planned.

The fighter from Mexico City, taking advantage of his opponent's unorthodox style, constantly landed straight shots to the head on his way to an unanimous 12-round decision over Prince Naseem Hamed in their featherweight bout Saturday night.

"My people prepared me well. We didn't want to charge him and get careless," said Barrera, who at 5-foot-7 (170 centimeters) is 4 inches (10 centimeters) taller than Hamed and often was able to keep him at arms' length.

"I was never hurt. He didn't hit as hard as people have said."

There were no knockdowns in the non-title bout, but Barrera, moving up from super bantamweight to 126 pounds, dominated most of the way.

He rocked the previously unbeaten Hamed twice in the first round, buckled his knees in the fourth, then had him wobbly at the finish.

Each time he was in trouble, however, Hamed was able to either move away or clinch before Barrera could finish him.

"He was the pure winner of this fight," Hamed said. "The guy fought better than I did, and that's it plain and simple.

"But I'll be back. I hope I'm going to get a rematch."

Barrera improved to 53-3, with 38 knockouts. Hamed, from Sheffield, England, is 35-1, with 31 knockouts.

Barrera, who noted before the bout that he had more knockouts than Hamed had fights, shrewdly exploited his edge in experience and the lack of defense by Hamed, who held his hands at waist level most of the fight.

Judges Duane Ford and Patricia Jarman-Manning each scored it 115-112 for Barrera, and Chuck Giampa gave him the nod 116-111.

There also was a bit of wrestling, with Barrera taking Hamed down to the canvas in the second round, then putting a sort of full nelson on him and slamming his face into the corner in the 12th. Barrera had a point taken away for the incident in the last round.

Although Barrera was never in trouble, his nose was puffy and bleeding mildly by the third round, apparently the result of a right jab thrown by Hamed. But in the fourth, the Mexican fighter rocked Hamed again, landing a left hook that buckled Hamed's knees momentarily.

Barrera stunned Hamed twice in the opening round, the first time about 11/2 minutes into the round and the second time just before the bell.

There was a gap of more than an hour between the end of the last prelim and the start of the featured bout because most of the fights on the undercard ended in quick knockouts. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Bauzon cage clinics backed

IN line with its corporate commitment of promoting youth and sports development, Burlington Industries Phils, Inc. is supporting cage and tennis clinics this summer season. B.I.P. Inc., maker of Burlington, Puma and Bally socks, is sponsoring Orly Bauzon's Basketball Camp in Pangasinan and Bicol. The two-time Olympian and former amateur and professional standout will share his experience and know-how in basketball in Lingayen, Bugallon, Umingan, Rosales, Sual, Villasis, San Fabian, Dagupan, San Carlos and Urdaneta from April 16 to June 2. The Bicol leg will open in Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte on May 7. The leading hosiery firm also has the ongoing Burlington Age Group Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Sports Complex in Pasig City.

Roligon 'Pukpukan' derby slated

EVERYTHING is set for the staging of the prize-rich post-lenten season event dubbed as the "P2.7M Pukpukan sa Mega 6-Cock Derby" on April 17 to May 1. Hosted by Rolly Ligon, the contest stakes a brand new Toyota Echo for the champion, in addition to the huge guaranteed cash prize. Entry fee is P9,900 with a P3,300 minimum bet. Participants may choose to fight in any of the six separate 3cock elimination matches set for April 17, 19, 21, 24, 26 and 28. Qualified bets will fight each other in the 3-cock finals on May 1. Reservations of slots and cock houses are now in full swing. More than 50 entries have been listed as of yesterday. Set to see action are Princess Naldo, Cris Manansala, Chet Cuneta, Wilson and Manny Te, Jimmyton Araneta, Dong Lacson, Dennis del Rosario and delegations of top corkers from Quezon, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan and Pampanga. Interested parties may call the Roligon office at 8332275 or 8331638.

Efren bares 9-ball preparation

REYES

CONTRARY to some reports, Efren "Bata" Reyes yesterday said he really prepared hard in his recent "Color of Money 2" duel with Earl Strickland. Reyes was quoted as saying that he "has not touched a cue stick since March 13" before meeting Strickland whom he eventually beat in that race-to-33, 9-ball showdown. "As a matter of fact," he said, using his now famous English phrase in that beer commercial, "I practiced in the billiard room of the newly-opened Paeng's Greenbelt Bowl in Makati City several days before the event started." He added Strickland also warmed up daily in one of the center's US-made AMF Grand Prix tables, the top-of-the-line model being used in US pro circuits and in their one-on-one at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Access Plus-Melossi team shines

ACCESS Plus-Melossi is fast becoming a byword in local scooter competition. Led by Jaime and Mark Anthony Barcial and Gilbert Maningas, Access Plus-Malossi Racing Team dominated three of seven categories in the second leg of the 2001 Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite recently. Jaime Barcial defeated Edwin Buenaventura, Mark Chua and Jolet Jao to rule the expert open category for the second time in as many races. Barcial's younger brother, Mark Anthony, also dominated the 70cc bracket over first-let winner Sonny Villarama, John Dino Cahanding and Dennis Chua. Maningas, who also topped the kickoff leg last March 13, outclassed Lucky Loya, Mark Chua and Cahanding in the 90cc category. The Barcial brothers and Maningas vowed to extend their dominance in the third leg tentatively schedule don June 17.

Scuba diving meet on TV 11

THE VERDE Island Scuba Diving Tournament will be telecast from 10 to 10:30 tonight on TV 11. To spice up the show are segments like scuba news, featured dive resorts, fish identification, instructor and diver, weekly competition, divesites, diving gears, dive shops, diving tours and liveaboards, and scuba dictionary portion. The program is aired every Monday. Sponsored by Verde Island Resort, the weekly scuba diving show is produced by Mukha TV Sports.

Kiddies cage tilt going on

EVERYTHING is set for the finals of the Jollibee Power of 3 North Luzon Bastketball Challenge, a pioneer project of ThemeWorks Events Company Inc., on May 27.

The cagefest is part of the ThemeWorks' thrust to bring children closer to sport and wholesome fun especially this summer.

A total of 10 areas in Northern Luzon are covered by the event. They are Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela), Novaliches, Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Bataan, La Union, Baguio and Cagayan.

It will see participation of 160 teams from 59 stores. Participants are children ages 7-9 (kids' division) and ages 10-12 (juniors division).

Tryouts have already started last April 1.

The company's president, Miguel Miñana, carries with him two decades of professional expertise in the field of advertising and events management.

Fitness courses fire off April 23

THE NATIONAL Athletic Training and Fitness Academy and the University of the Philippines-College of Human Kinetics will hold their fitness certification courses this summer at the University of the Philippines, Diliman Campus.

Classes (morning, evening and weekend) start on April 23. Citing the absence or lack of some form of accreditation for gym instructors, aerobics instructors, fitness consultants and athletic trainers in the local fitness setting, UP-CHK and Natfa are now offering short accreditation courses in strength training (level 1, 2 and 3), aerobic science (level 1 and 2), athletic training (level 1 and 2), athletic taping (module 1 and 2), sports first aid and sports rehabilitation (module 1 and 2).

To be conducted by TEAM F.I.T.ness International, the courses will train and certify current and aspiring gym instructors, personal trainers, aerobics instructors, athletic trainers and fitness professionals.

The course is open to all those interested in the field of scientific fitness and athletic training.

Headed by Prof. Jose Jimbo M. Saret, M.S. Athletic Training, Brigham Young University and Prof. Larry fee, Ph.D., Exercise Science, head of the Sports Medicine department of University of Hawaii, other members of TEAM F.I.T.ness Intl. include Prof. Luigi Bercades, M.S. Exercise Physiology, University of Oregon; Prof. Iggy Agbayani, M.D., Sports Medicine-Orthopedic Surgeon, University of Australia; Prof. Alberto Magpily, M.D., Surgery, University of Germany; Prof. Luchi Callanta, M.S. Nutrition and Dietetics, University of the Philippines; and Prof. Hercules Callanta, M.S. Physical Education, University of the Philippines.

For deatails, please inquire at tel. nos. 924-1984; 436-7607; fax at 924-1984 or email us at natfa_ph@yahoo.com.

Suns trip Cavs, earn playoff seat

CLEVELAND—Shawn Marion scored 25 points as the Phoenix Suns beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 102-98 Saturday night, clinching a playoff berth for the 13th consecutive season.

Jason Kidd had 17 points and nine assists for the Suns, who missed 11 of their first 13 shots and rallied from a 17-point deficit.

Clarence Weatherspoon and Matt Harpring each scored 20 points for the Cavaliers, who lost their seventh-straight game overall and dropped their fourth straight against Phoenix

Pistons 97, Hornets 92

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jerry Stackhouse scored 30 points and Ben Wallace had a career-high 24 rebounds as Detroit dealt Charlotte its third straight loss.

Complete results: Boston 102, Washington 100; Phoenix 102, Cleveland 98; Detroit 97, Charlotte 92; Utah 116, Dallas 103; Houston 110, Atlanta 97; Denver 98, Vancouver 97; San Antonio 93, L.A. Clippers 83. *AP*

Does Malacañang really care?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE NEW government seems not to know the importance of sports. Obviously, sports is not its priority and therefore does not enjoy the attention it needed.

Why else would executive secretary Renato de Villa "snub" last Monday's opening ceremony of the 4th South East Asia Basketball Association men's championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum? Instead, De Villa, who was supposed to be the guest of honor, sent a representative, a certain Waldo Flores, who arrive done hour late for the appointed time.

Also days before that Seaba snub, President Macapagal did not appear in the "Banquet of Champions" at the Manila Hotel where she was the special guest in the awards dinner hosted by the family of the late boxing legend, Gabriel "flash" Elorde.

Spots shapes the nation. If the new administration treats sports this way, the people cannot expect a good sports program and, consequently, success in the international scene Cuba and China win Olympic gold medals because of all-out government support.

Cuban boxer Teofilo Stevenson, who won the Olympic golds in 1972, 1976 and 1980, never worked a day in his life. He trained eight hours a day, 365 days a year and had the best coaches from all over the communist world. Upon his retirement, Stevenson became a boxing adviser for Cuba's National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation.

On the other hand, China reaped extraordinary success in women's volleyball by scouting for tall and beefy players high in the mountains with an average height of 6-foot-6 and 170 lb. in weight. These women train in the art and science of volleyball under the greatest coaches in the Eastern bloc being paid huge salaries.

In contrast, how does the government treat sports and the Filipino athletes?

At present, the athletes are demoralized because their training is in disarray, their morale low and there is not enough money to purchase even their most basic equipment. I gathered too that the new government has not taken any step when the athletes marched to Malacañang to air their grievances before De Villa, who is known as "teka-teka."

Also until now, this government has not replaced the officials of the Philippines Sports Commission with the excuse that it is not wise to replace them with the Southeast Asian Games just around the corner. As far as the people know, the position of PSC chair and commissioners is coterminus with the president.

When the Supreme Court declared deposed President Joseph Estrada resigned, the PSC chair and commissioners should also resign out of delicadeza being appointees of the previous administration. However, the anticipated resignation did not materialize. Instead, the new administration even appointed as the PSC commissioner a classmate of President Macapagal and retained the PSC chair who is a first cousin of First Gentleman Miguel arroyo. This led many people asking: Whatever happened to the President's policy of not appointing her friends and relatives to the government?

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ZARATE (center) proudly displays the champion's trophy and symbolic check he received from (left to right) Philippine Tour chair Bob Sobrepeña, CAP president and CEO lawyer Enrique Sobrepeña, Forest Hills chair Ferdinand Santos and Hall-of-Famer Ben Arda.

Zarate outlasts Pacto, ends 3-year win drought

BY JONG ARCANO

ANTIPOLO—Two players with contrasting streaks in sudden-death playoffs went through the same pressure test for the College Assurance Place-Forest Hills Classic yesterday.

Danny Zarate, the veteran who had lost his four previous extension stints, against Robert Pactolerin, the big man who is acknowledged as the local playoff king after winning at least eight of the nine he played.

The law of averages swung in favor of Zarate as he two-putted for par on the third extra hole to beat the favored Pactolerin and end an almost three-year victory drought.

It was, literally, Zarate's day under the sun.

Soaked wet by sweat due to the scorching heat, Zarate needed to overcome the intense pressure of saving par from the fairway trap and the middle bunker of the 18th—called the donut hole with its unique character—in regulation play.

Pactolerin, who teed off on the 18th all even with Zarate, himself went through the trouble of blasting out for his par on the 72nd hole, still needing to sink a six-footer for his four.

The big victim of those scrambling pars by Pactolerin and Zarate was sentimental pick Gerald Rosales.

Rosales, set to defend his Philippine Open crown at Wack Wack next month, needed at least a last-hole birdie to join the playoff. He looked poised to do that after a booming drive got him just a short lob wedge from just 80 yards for his approach.

But he misjudged his wedge shot, falling way short of the green and watched in dismay as the ball rolled down, away from the elevated green. He went on to make bogey and settled for third place.

"I've waited long enough, I need this win so bad for my confidence," said Zarate, who closed out with a 68 spiked by two eagles on the third and 10th against the 69 of Pactolerin for similar 272 aggregates. They won P100,000 and P50,000, respectively.

Rosales shot a 71 for 274, ahead of Cassius Casas (70) and Tony Lascuna (71) who tied for fourth at 277.

The playoff ironically ended on the treacherous 12th, the same hole where Pactolerin took a triple bogey in Round 3 and spoiled his pullaway bid. He hit a 3-iron approach fat and fell 40 yards short in a difficult area below the green.

The charger that he is, Pactolerin made a last ditch effort to extend the playoff and gave himself a chance from five feet to do it. His par-saver grazed the cup and Zarate answered by two-putting from 25 feet.

Club champion Raffy Garcia upstaged national amateur champ Angelo Que to win the amateur division with his 151 total while Caloy Nival crowned himself the supper seniors champion, beating Cassius father Necias.

Woods-Mickelson showdown looms

AUGUSTA, Georgia—A sudden burst of birdies for Tiger Woods. A late charge from his nemesis, Phil Mickelson.

WOODS: Gunning for the sweep. AP

Just like that, the stage was set for a thrilling conclusion to one of the most remarkable Masters ever.

At stake for Woods is the grandest achievement yet in golf—the first clean sweep of the four professional majors.

"Just to have the opportunity to do it is going to be a lot of fun," Woods said.

What better person to try to stop him than Mickelson, who already has halted two of Woods' amazing streaks and is poised to shed the burden as the best player in the world without a major championship?

"I desperately want this," Mickelson said. "I've been dreaming of this day."

With three straight birdies down the back stretch Saturday, Woods emerged from a pack with a 4-under 68 and a one-stroke lead at 204, not a bad position for a guy who is 24-4 worldwide when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead.

Mickelson bogeyed with a three-putt from 6 feet (1.83 meters) and took a double bogey by trying a flop shot from the razor-thin grass on the 14th green. Still, he showed no quit, birdieing the last two holes for a 69 and a spot in the final pairing.

As the sun fell on a dramatic afternoon at Augusta National, Woods stayed on the practice green with coach Butch Harmon, fine-tuning the most important part of his game for the most important 18 holes in his young but brilliant career.

The curtain rises Sunday perhaps the most anticipated day in golf—a matchup between No. 1 and No. 2, and so much more.

Mark Calcavecchia and Chris DiMarco, University of Florida alums who use a bizarre, clawlike grip on the putter, were two strokes out of the lead. Another shot back were two-time US Open champion Ernie Els and David Duval, who has his fourth straight chance to win the green jacket.

Woods, who won the final three majors last year, starting with his record romp in the US Open at Pebble Beach, has won four of the last five majors.

Mickelson already has handed Woods his share of misery. Just 14 months ago, he stopped Woods PGA Tour winning streak at six with a gutsy win in San Diego. In November at the Tour Championship, it was Mickelson who ended the streak of 19 tournaments in which Woods turned a 54-hole lead into a victory. *AP*

Dutch oust Germans; Swedes upend Russians

LONDON—After knocking out defending titlist Spain, the Netherlands reached the Davis Cup semifinal for the first time on Saturday after doubles pair Paul Haarhuis and Sjeng Schalken clinched a decisive 3-0 lead over Germany.

Haarhuis and Schalken outplayed David Prinosil and Jens Knippschild 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 at Hertogenbosch, close to the German border, as the Dutch beat the Germans for the first time after six losses in previous meetings.

In another World Group game, Sweden also made it to the semifinal by winning the doubles against Russia for a 3-0 lead. Switzerland stayed alive after winning the doubles but still trailed France 2-1 while Australia took its doubles match to lead Brazil 2-1.

At Malmoe, Jonas Bjorkman, one of the world's top doubles players, teamed with Davis Cup rookie Simon Aspelin to beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovski 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-7(2) 6-2 for the clinching point, making Sunday's singles meaningless. *AP*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Torre keeps share of lead

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre drew with NM Reggie Olay after 68 moves of a Sicilian Alapin Variation yesterday and kept his share of the lead after eight rounds in the National Open Chess championship finals at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS building in Quezon City. Torre is tied for top spot at 5.5 points with IM Richard Bitoon and NM Allan Sayson with three rounds to go.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Nabisco Championship, Second Round at 11 a.m. (r), Third Round tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN
Augusta Masters 2001, Final Day Highlights at 12:30 p.m., (r- tomorrow at 1 a.m.), Final Day at 8 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Senior PGA Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, Final Round at 11 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: This Week in the NBA at 11:30 a.m. on CNN

PBA ALL-FILIPINO CUP

Undermanned SMB nips Pals

GAMES WEDNESDAY: (Ynares Center)
5:15 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Pop Cola
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

DESPITE missing three key players, San Miguel Beer kept its poise to beat Mobiline, 67-66, last night in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen played minus Danny Seigle (back spasm), Freddie Abuda (sprained left ankle) and Boybits Victoria (hepatitis).

But that didn't stop the Beermen from making a tough stand against the Phone Pals, whom they left behind by as many as 11 points in the third quarter.

Though the Beermen's victory—their 9th in 14 games—hardly created impact on their lofty standings for the next round, it proved disastrous for the struggling Phone Pals.

Now, the Phone Pals will have to wait for the outcome of the last two playing days to see if they would make the quarterfinals or push through with an early vacation.

At 6-8, Mobiline can end up tied with the 9th place team after the elimination— in this case Tanduay Gold—and undergo a sudden-death duel with the Rhummasters for the final ticket to the next round.

The Phone Pals were very much in the game up to the last 11.1 seconds with the score tied at 66.

But Mobiline leader Jerry Codiñera—apparently unaware of the score and the clock—fouled Olsen Racela in an inbound play from the far end of the court.

"I didn't look at the score," said Codiñera of that error when he embraced the slow-dribbling Racela, who ironically appeared like he was just trying to use the clock and wait for overtime.

And the saddest thing of all was Codiñera sent Racela to the line, who is averaging 86 percent from that area. Racela missed his first shot but sank the other for the final count.

Alaska Milk downed Tanduay Gold, 87-82, in the second game to complete the quaterfinals cast. The Aces improved to 7-7, while the Rhum Masters closed out the eliminations with a 5-9 record.

Score:

SMB 67—Ildefonso 16, Velasco 14, Lago 12, Duat 11, Fernandez 5, Racela 5, Mente 4, Gamboa 0.

MOBILINE 66—Camaso 15, Fran 13, Codiñera 12, Ejercito 8, Demape 3, Cui 4, Pablo 4, Babilonia 2, Angeles 0, Gonzales 0, Ravena 0.

Quarters: 14-19; 37-30, 53-45, 67-66.

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METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL
Page A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Gunfight outside police precinct A26
Old woman dies while praying inside church A26

Segregate, or waste will not to be collected–MMDA

By TJ Burgonio

UNLESS garbage is properly segregated, garbage trucks will not collect in Metro Manila villages starting May 1, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos said yesterday.

Abalos said garbage segregation should be strictly enforced to minimize the worsening garbage problem in the metropolis.

"For instance, if you bring out wet trash on a Monday when you're supposed to bring out dry trash, this won't be collected by the crew of

SEGREGATE/ A26

Maynilad West Zone portions waterless

THIRTY percent of Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s West Zone concession area went waterless starting late afternoon Saturday when the National Power Corp.'s Turbine No. 5 in Angat Dam bogged down in the morning as a result of the blackout.

According to Maynilad's water production manager, engineer Ed Esteban, he learned from the NPC that Turbine No. 5, the largest of the five auxiliary turbines of NPC in Angat, was undergoing repair as a result of a turbine leakage at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Esteban said that as of 12 noon Saturday, Angat was releasing only 32 cubic meters per second (cms) out of the 46 cms required by both Maynilad and Manila Water Company Inc., which handles the East Zone of Metro Manila.

Of the 32 cms, Maynilad only received an average of 16.30 cms of raw water, the water firm said.

The waterless parts were the project areas of Quezon City, parts of Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Manila and Pasay. The rest of the West Zone was experiencing low water pressure, Maynilad said.

It said that in Ipo Dam, the water level was at a critical level at 98.62 meters, six hours after the turbine bogged down.

For the Ipo to operate, the dam level should be at least 100 meters, Maynilad said.

It said it was still awaiting Napocor's advise as to when the repair would be finished.

The La Mesa water treatment plants 1 and 2 are producing only 1,550 to 1,600 mld (million liters per day) of treated water, way below their regular output of 2,190 mld, Maynilad said.

Hardly hit by the unscheduled water interruption are areas dependent on the Bagbag reservoir. As of Saturday noon, the Bagbag level was at 62.77 meters, below its operating level of 68 meters, Maynilad said.

Maynilad said it dispatched water tankers to ration water in the affected areas.

For inquiries on the water-rationing schedule, customers may call Maynilad hotline 1626.

3 dead in 4 fires

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOUR fires hit Malabon and Manila, leaving three people dead and five others injured, and damaging close to P40 million in properties during the Luzon-wide blackout on Saturday.

Two of the victims, Jeffrey Agustin, 11, of Gozon Compound, Letre Road, and Catalina Bercilla, 49, were killed as an eight-hour fire destroyed more than 1,500 shanties at Paradise Village in Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon, said SFO3 Alvin Torres of the Malabon Fire Station.

Investigation showed Bercilla suffered a heart attack as she saw flames engulfing her house at Paradise Village. She died on the way to the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon.

Agustin was picking metal scraps when he was electrocuted after a live wire fell on the metal heap he was rummaging through, fire investigators said. He also died before he could arrive at the Malabon hospital.

The fire hit Paradise

3 DEAD/ A26

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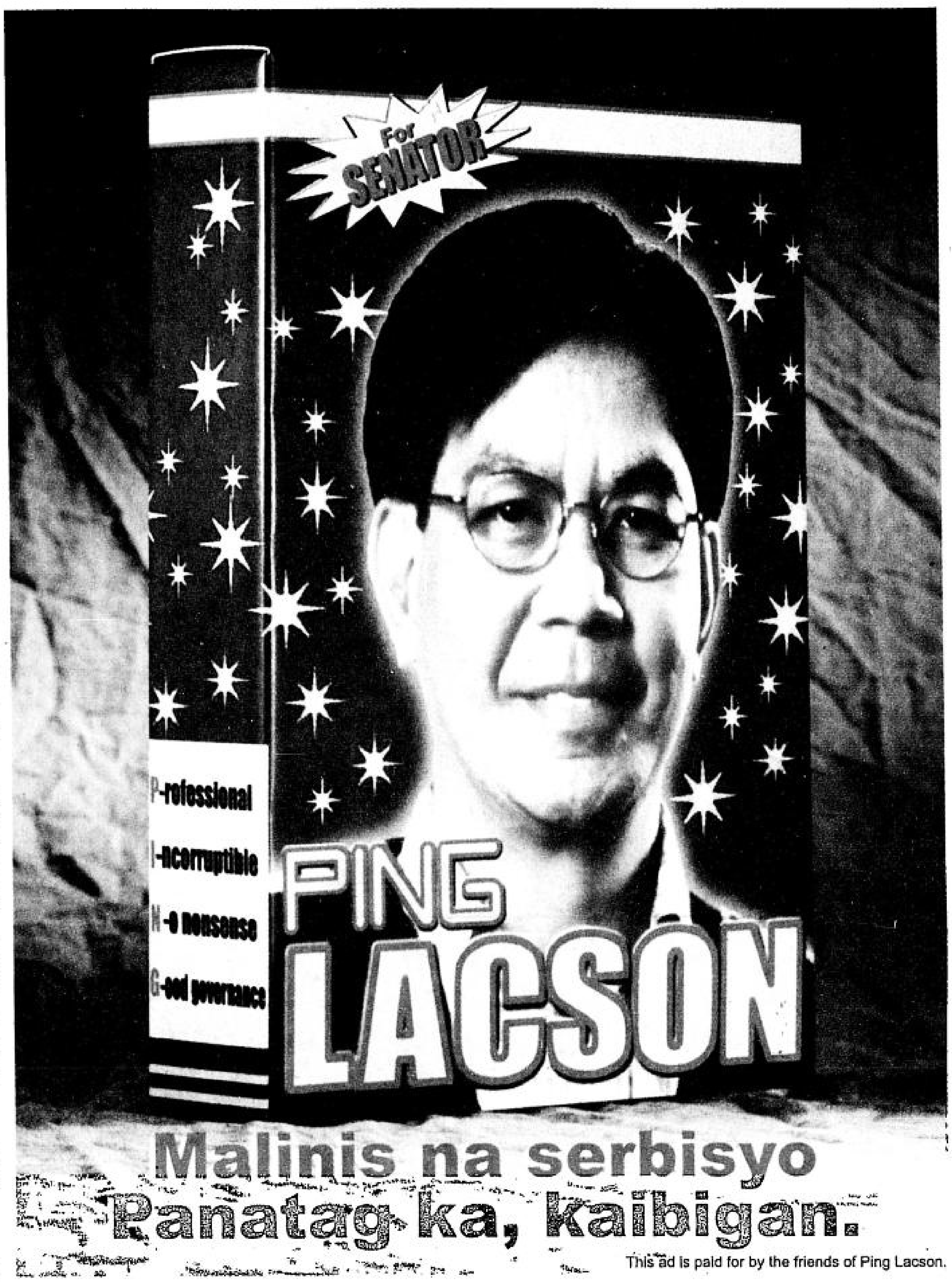
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Gunfight outside police precinct

By Philip C. Tubeza

A GUN battle erupted Saturday night just outside a police precinct on busy E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City after an FX taxi driver who was being held up by two men braked to a stop outside the station.

Driver Ferdinand P. Balondo's gamble almost worked but one of the suspects was able to escape. Worse, a stray bullet hit canteen operator Nino M. Orapa, 25, in one foot, said investigator PO2 John Cayetano, of the Galas police station.

Passenger Alin S. Marasigan, 23, of St. Agustine Village, Parian, Calamba, Laguna, was also hit by a piece of glass on the nose, Cayetano added.

Police arrested suspect Bartolome C. Nabagan, 30, a tricycle driver, and recovered some of the valuables taken from Balondo's passengers. Nabagan's accomplice, identified only as Dong from Caloocan, escaped.

The loot that Dong took included Marasigan's Nokia 3210, Hazel A. Luna's silver bracelet and P500 cash, Jessie G. Ramos' silver necklace and P2,500 cash, Cayetano said.

Police only recovered from Nabagan a Nokia 6210 he had stolen from passenger Joel Sumingcay, 23; two fan knives, and a .38 caliber revolver, Cayetano added.

Balondo told investigators the two men boarded his Rich C FX taxi in Cubao around 10 p.m. Saturday. One sat in the rear while another sat in the middle row, Cayetano said.

When the taxi reached the Christ the King seminary along E. Rodriguez, the two men brought out fan knives and handguns and announced the holdup.

They proceeded to take the valuables of the passengers. They also told Balondo not to make any false move.

The two men apparently guessed that the taxi would pass the Police Community Precinct Four of the Galas police along E. Rodriguez.

When the taxi reached the precinct, the driver suddenly stepped on the brakes, jumped out and shouted for help.

The policemen in the precinct ran toward the taxi. Seeing that they were about to be surrounded, the two holdup men also jumped out and ran away.

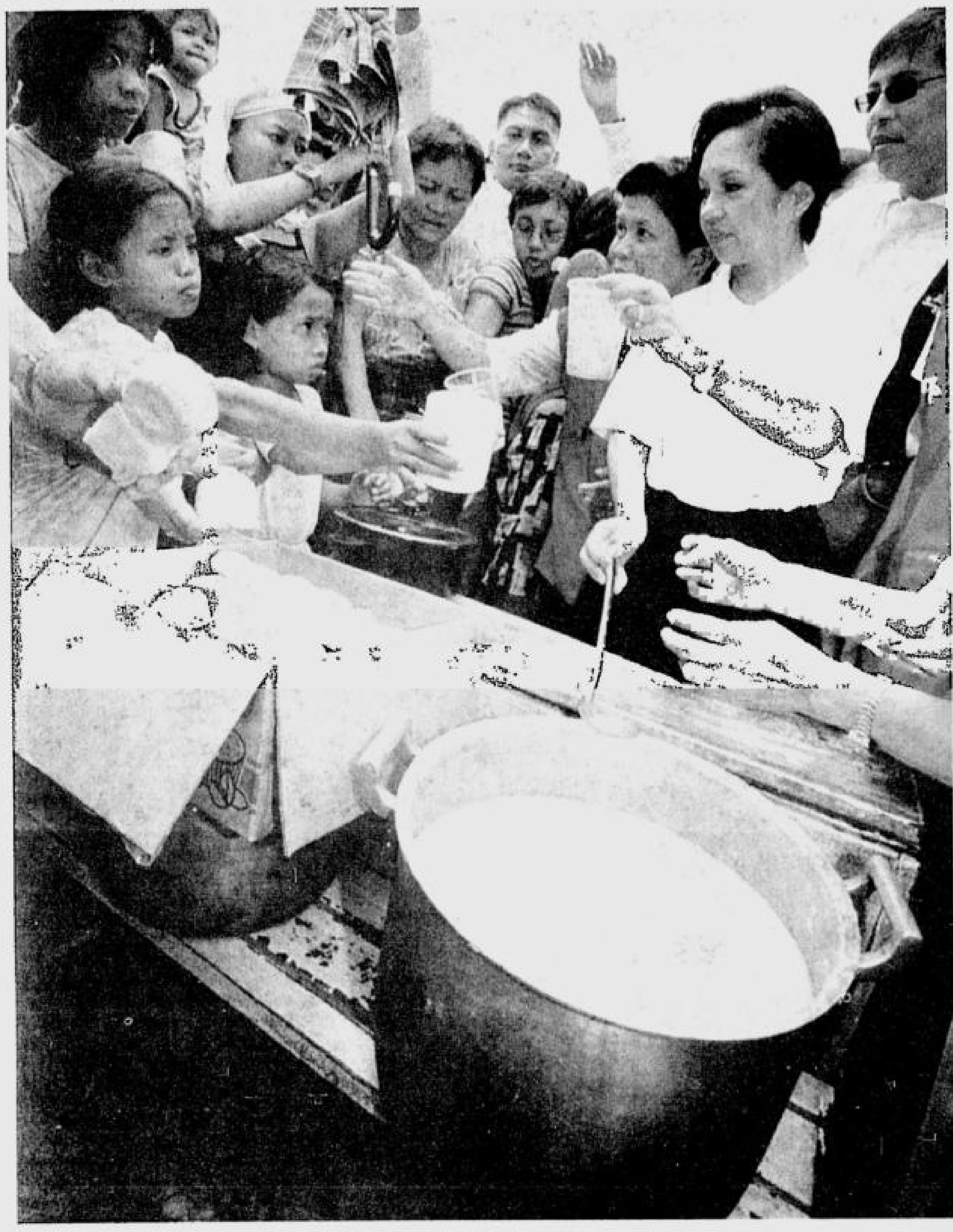
To discourage the policemen from following them, the suspects opened fired at the lawmen, starting off a running gunfight.

A stray bullet hit Orapa and another hit the taxi's windshield. A piece of broken glass grazed Marasigan's nose, Cayetano said.

During the firefight, Nabagan's companion was able to escape toward Doña Juana Rodriguez Boulevard.

Police and angry residents of the area cornered the other holdup man.

Police were preparing charges of robbery, illegal possession of a firearm, and violation of the election gun ban against Nabagan, Cayetano added.



PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo gives food to fire victims in Malabon. ERIK ARAZAS

GMA allowing slow but sure sabotage

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

DESPITE having slugged streetside gin with sweaty barrio mates at the height of the Black Saturday blackout, I woke up feeling unusually great early yesterday.

No cobwebs, no ringing in the ear.

Want to know why?

For the first time, I had this feeling that Naseem Hamed, clown prince of boxing, would finally meet his match. The pretender thankfully got floored and dumped.

That towering feeling was to be short-lived, though. Reason: My tiny Honda missed being crushed when I drove down the Makati bridge shortly before 6 a.m. to take my youngest son to the airport.

It was my fault. I crossed at a green light.

Yes, I waited for the traffic light to flash green before shifting to the first gear and stepping on the gas.

Before I could turn right to Buendia, I stopped at a red light. A passenger bus next hissed by my left side, and nearly slammed into a car whose only fault, you guessed it, was to properly obey the traffic light.

Like myself, the car driver moved on when the traffic signal flashed green.

* * *

On Friday, hours after my tiny thesis on the zone defense had appeared here, I again encountered this group of dusky teeners from the next barrio, Saniboy. They were trying to pass around an envelope, with a letter asking for cash donations to help buy their uniforms for the summer basketball league.

This has been the tired scene summer after summer: mindless teenagers prowling the streets to solicit for basketball uniform.

I said OK, I will help but first you have to answer this little quiz.

Shoot, *sige*, they chorused.

What do you know about the zone defense?

What's that, *ano 'yon*, they cried out, as though the zone defense, the world's best tested defensive weapon on the hard court, had been introduced only yesterday.

***Sona*, zone defense, it would next be used in the PBA.**

***Ano 'yon, hindi ba tao-tao*, man-to-man?**

Go out and ask around. *Mag-aral muna kayo*, then you can come back for my contribution.

Hope it would help them learn the ropes, also the basic rules of street life.

* * *

The most shocking bit about the crippling Luzon-wide blackout on Saturday came at the end of the news story.

It had something to do with the theft of very vital aluminum wires.

The Napocor spokesman admitted that efforts to restore power were hampered by the theft of aluminum high-voltage cables. He said that, earlier this year, a big volume of aluminum cable was stolen, thereby weakening a link in that area of the Luzon grid and preventing immediate diversion of electricity from the power plants during the monumental blackout on Saturday.

The way the Napocor statement was worded, the theft sounded insignificant. You know, not unlike a passenger bus going wild to cross a main avenue at a red light.

If that bus hit a passenger jeepney and a dozen people got killed or injured, it would be ruled a plain accident. Naturally.

Nothing to worry, assured President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, there was no sabotage involved in that hellish power outage on Saturday.

She readily ruled out political foul play while ordering a probe.

Of course, there should be a probe. This is the reason we elect presidents. To see to it that an investigation is conducted after each major mishap or upheaval. It has been standard practice even under Ferdinand Marcos. Although nothing predictably comes out of the tired practice.

* * *

Meanwhile, wanton violation of practically all ordinances has become regular fare in the life of the poor Pinoy out in the city streets.

Male citizens, drunk or allegedly sober, unzip and piss anywhere, anytime the need arises.

Garbage is dumped in the exact spots where boldly splashed in bright paint are the words *Bawal magtapon ng basura.*

Drivers jump the lights, assorted violations are made right under the nose of self-styled traffic cops who habitually look the other way, lest they don't get a share of the daily traffic tong collection.

Yes, there has been a widespread breakdown of law and order down here.

Vital cables are stolen to slowly but surely cause massive blackouts.

It was not sabotage, Malacañang has ruled.

Reason: It did not threaten the Presidency. Those stolen aluminum cables were made into expensive magwheels, not guns to shoot presidential guards.

The already chaotic existence of the Filipino has again been violated, sabotaged. But why worry? The presidency is safe, the lights are back.

3 dead in 4 fires

(From page A25)

Village at 10:56 p.m., a few minutes after electricity was restored in the area.

Investigators said a lighted candle used during the blackout could have started the fire, which raged on until 6:54 yesterday.

The fire destroyed P30 million in properties and left at least 3,000 families homeless, investigators said.

Authorities theorized that the fire could have started from the house of a certain Eli. But they are still investigating what really caused the fire.

In Manila, Aurelio Lapascua, 70, was burned to death after his two-story house at 2220 Tomas Mapua St. in Sta. Cruz went up in smoke in a fire that lasted from 1 p.m. to 1:22 p.m. Saturday.

Fire investigators said Lapascua panicked and locked himself inside his room on the second floor of his house.

A total of P300,000 in properties was reported damaged.

About three hours later, six rundown houses in front of the Bambang Market on Masangkay Street, also in Sta. Cruz, were burned for still unclear reasons.

No fatalities were reported in the fire which lasted for over an hour, but Edward Navarro of the Manugit Volunteer Fire Brigade injured his left leg, said FO1 Oscar Rupero.

The fire, which ate up more than P2 million in properties, could have been triggered by a lighted candle, investigators said.

Four hours earlier, fire razed a two-story house owned by one Romeo Bautista in Lallana, Velasquez, Tondo.

There were also no reported casualties during the two-hour fire that destroyed an estimated P1.5 million in properties.

Segregate . . .

(From page A25)

the roving garbage truck," he said.

Speaking over radio dzBB, Abalos said the decision to implement the scheme was reached during a recent meeting with an association of garbage collectors.

The MMDA would conduct a massive campaign to inform the public about the schedule of pick-up of biodegradable and non-biodegradable trash in their villages each week, according to Abalos.

The MMDA, while still under Jejomar Binay, started implementing the segregation scheme about two years ago as part of long-term solutions to the garbage crisis in the metropolis. However, the implementation was never followed through.

But last January, Abalos directed the mayors of Metro Manila to implement the government segregation scheme in compliance with Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Abalos issued the directive after failing to find a solution to the garbage problem, which worsened following the closure of the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill on Dec. 30, 2000. The Payatas dumpsite in Quezon City is open only to residents of the city.

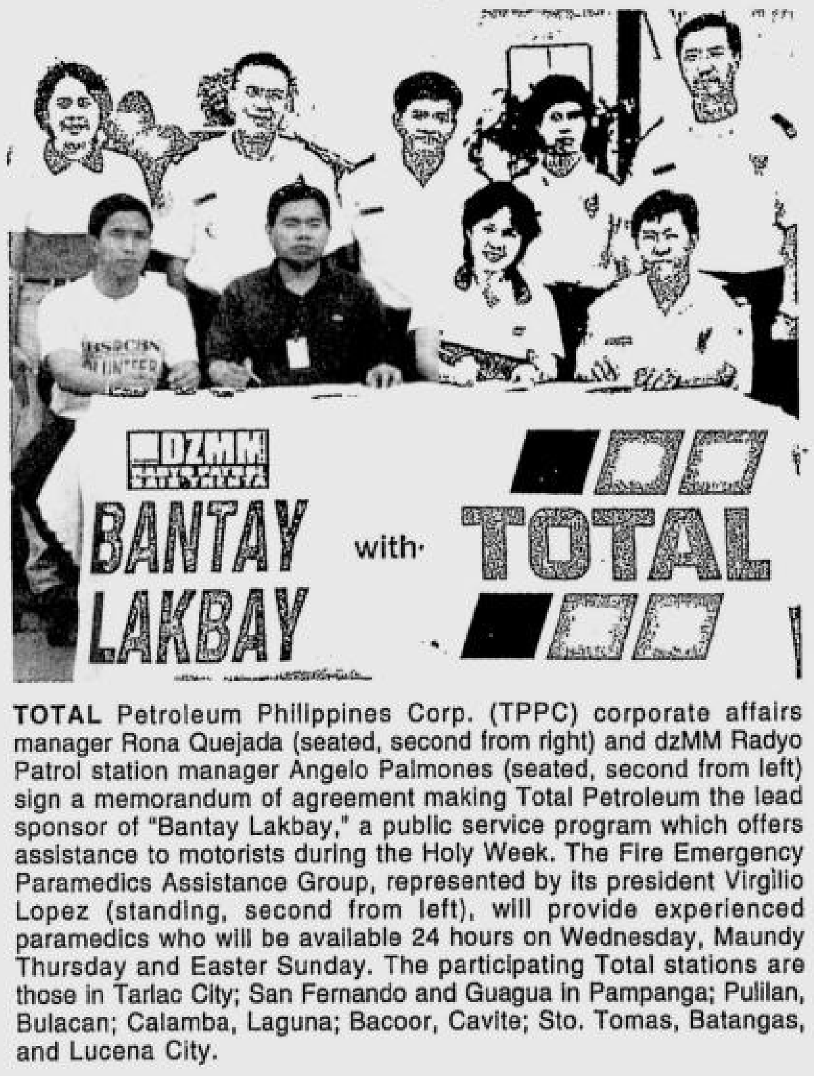
Metro Manila churns out an average of 6,000 tons of garbage every day.

Abalos also disclosed that he had met with managers of public and private markets and owners of groceries to convince them to start using shredders instead of just stuffing their garbage in bags.

"Once trash is shredded, this will directly go to composting," he said.

He also called on Metro Manila barangay leaders to tap members of the "Bantay Bayan" (*See related story, Page A27*) as sanitary inspectors to guard against the clandestine dumping of garbage in prohibited areas at night.

"These members of the Bantay-Bayan could be deputized as our sanitary police," he said and noted that he has received complaints that unscrupulous residents often dump their trash at street corners late at night.



TOTAL Petroleum Philippines Corp. (TPPC) corporate affairs manager Rona Quejada (seated, second from right) and dzMM Radyo Patrol station manager Angelo Palmones (seated, second from left) sign a memorandum of agreement making Total Petroleum the lead sponsor of "Bantay Lakbay," a public service program which offers assistance to motorists during the Holy Week. The Fire Emergency Paramedics Assistance Group, represented by its president Virgilio Lopez (standing, second from left), will provide experienced paramedics who will be available 24 hours on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. The participating Total stations are those in Tarlac City; San Fernando and Guagua in Pampanga; Pulilan, Bulacan; Calamba, Laguna; Bacoor, Cavite; Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and Lucena City.

Old woman dies while praying inside church

By Christian V. Esguerra

BEFORE she could commemorate the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ this Holy Week, an old woman yesterday died while she was praying and walking on her knees inside the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Church in Tondo, Manila.

Known only as *Aling* Christian or *Lola* Crising to altar boys, the woman, a native of Iloilo, often went to the church at any time of the day.

At about 4 p.m. last Saturday, Lola Crising, about 60 to 65 years old, asked convent boy Mario Mahusay, 24, to allow her to spend the rest of the day inside the church at the corner of Tahimik and Del Pan streets in Tondo.

Case investigator PO3 Joey Ocampo of the Western Police District Homicide Division said Lola Crising began walking on her knees from the church door to the altar while praying in a whisper, Mahusay told investigators.

The altar boy said that at about 5 a.m. yesterday as he went upstairs to prepare for the Palm Sunday Mass, he saw the woman gasping for breath.

Thirty minutes after Mahusay last saw her, another altar boy informed him that "the old woman was dead," investigation showed.

Police said Lola Crising, who was in checkered blue shirt, checkered gray pants and green and blue slippers, was found lying on a wooden bench.

They said the woman could have died of exhaustion because of the long hours she had spent praying and walking on her knees. Her body was brought to the Sanctuary Funeral for autopsy.

Jail guard kills himself before girlfriend's mom

"MOTHER, goodbye."

These were the last words Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) guard JO1 Dindo Teves before he shot himself in the mouth in front of his girlfriend's mother in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Teves, 29, a Zamboanga City native and assigned to the Teresa, Rizal district jail, appeared drunk and depressed when he committed suicide after downing several glasses of brandy in the home of his girlfriend Marnelie Adriano, 17, at 119 Tanhville in Barangay Sta. Lucia, Novaliches in Quezon City.

According to investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda, Teves killed himself by putting the muzzle of his .9 mm. service firearm into his mouth and then pulling the trigger, Barrameda said.

Teves went to Marnelie's house at about 12:30 a.m. to attend a party for her sister, who left for Japan yesterday morning.

But after Teves had drunk several glasses of Fundador brandy, he seemed "strange and depressed," said Marnelie.

"He did not act that way before," she said. "I did not know something bad was about to happen."

She said her drunken boyfriend had tried to embrace her several times that night and repeatedly told her he was sorry.

"He said he had done me so many wrongs and he wanted to ask for forgiveness," she said. "I thought he was just drunk."

At about 6:30 a.m., the girl's mother, vendor Leonila, arrived home from work.

"He followed me inside the house and sat on the sofa," the girl's mother said. "My daughter was trying to convince him to sleep since it was already morning but he would not listen.

"When my daughter left, I thought I saw him crying so I sat beside him and asked him what it was all about," she added.

Teves muttered that he only had a runny nose, Adriano said.

To her surprise, Teves pulled out his gun, Adriano said. But Teves told her not to worry since the gun had no bullets. Then he placed the gun on his side, Adriano said.

She said she stood up to leave. Before she could take a step, however, Teves had the gun again in his hand, she said.

He then said, "Mother, goodbye," put the gun's muzzle in his mouth, pulled the trigger and collapsed on the sofa, Adriano said.

Man slays boy who called him 'Muslim'

AN UNIDENTIFIED man who apparently found Muslim an offensive label killed a 16-year-old boy who used the word to call him in Pasig City early yesterday morning.

Insp. Antonio Paulete, officer in charge of the Pasig Criminal Investigation Division, identified the boy as Denmark Lao, an out of school youth, of Barangay Pinagbuhatan in Pasig.

Lao sustained a single stab wound on the left shoulder. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Rizal Medical Center.

PO2 Rolando Lipata said the stabbing occurred at a dance party in Pinagbuhatan at about 3 a.m. yesterday. Lao was watching the people at the dance party when the unidentified man, identified only as Richard, approached him.

A witness told police that the boy asked Richard if he was a Muslim. This apparently irked the man, who stabbed the boy.

Agnes E. Donato

BANTAY BAYAN

The new crime busters

EARLY on in the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, her husband Mike T. Arroyo said: "Because I am a lawyer, I can help the anti-crime groups in fact-finding and getting the assistance of police agencies." He also vowed to "go against illegal drugs."

Instead of just relying on the authorities, Arroyo is also rallying the people to his side through the "Bantay Bayan" program.

An anti-crime prevention campaign, Bantay Bayan is a peace-keeping force of civilian volunteers that Arroyo conceptualized to help communities achieve peace and order, public safety, progress and development. The First Husband heads the Bantay Bayan Foundation that will ensure the sustainability of the project.

"We all know that the police force does not have the number to effectively cover Metro Manila's 2,150 hectares and population of almost half a million," he explained during the program launch last month at the Marikina Sports Complex.

He said Bantay Bayan is meant to compliment the efforts of the police by creating a mass base of civilian volunteers. Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando is the first Metro Manila mayor to respond to Arroyo's call by gathering about 2,700 volunteers for Bantay Bayan.

Arroyo has tasked the volunteers to assist the local police in crime prevention.

"This program will encourage a closer police-civilian partnership," Arroyo said.

The Bantay Bayan volunteers are also expected to assist city and barangay disaster coordinating councils in providing medical, traffic, safety and security services especially during emergencies; help local officials and police in gathering data on insurgency, crime, drug addiction, juvenile delinquency, vice dens, gambling and prostitution; and conduct patrols and similar neighborhood-watch activities in areas where there are no barangay *tanod* posts.

All these will be done without usurping police powers and in consultation with the fiscal, public attorneys or lawyers.

Bantay Bayan will be directly under the city and municipal mayors who will appoint the leaders who will in turn recruit members.

Volunteers should be at least 18 years old, physically and mentally fit, have no criminal records, literate, and endorsed by the homeowners association or barangay council.

Qualified volunteers will be trained in basic intelligence, community security, self defense, civilian arrest and due process, emergency services, public relations and community mobilization.

They will also get insurance coverage and medical benefits.

PRESIDENTIAL Husband Mike Arroyo (right), Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando and Bantay Bayan volunteers try out the donated bicycles.

Autonomy for LGUs

ONCE elected as party-list representative in Congress, the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) will work for the full decentralization of political governance and let local governments chart their own roads to social and economic development.

Abigail S. Binay, chair of the party's Youth Action Committee, said that as basic units of participatory democracy, local governments should enjoy full autonomy from the national government and should benefit from a bigger share of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA).

"Our vision is for a federal form of government," she said. "A federal government is the best guarantee for governance that is truly democratic, participatory and accountable to the people."

She said local officials should be given the opportunity to bring their leadership and managerial potential to the fullest through a program for continuing education both here and abroad.

The youth committee chair said the PDP Laban believes that local government units (LGUs), being the basic organs of political power, should be given the opportunity to chart their own roads to development, taking into consideration the specific needs and the interest of their constituents.

"That is why PDP Laban is for the establishment of a federal form of government," she said. "It is time for us to reject the centuries-old domination of a central authority that is detached from the realities prevailing outside its boundaries."

Binay said a central government in Manila is in no position to tell the people of Mindanao what is good for them and what they should do.

"Only the people of Mindanao know what is good for them and what should be done," she said. "And the first thing to be done is to remove the stranglehold of Manila on the affairs of Mindanao and the other regions."

Masangkay vows more employment

MUNTINLUPA mayoral candidate Bess Aguilar Masangkay vowed to pursue investment-friendly policies to speed up economic growth and create more jobs for the residents of the suburban city.

Masangkay, an accountant and a property developer, said Muntinlupa could be developed as an alternative to the burgeoning business districts of Makati and Ortigas.

To achieve this, she said, the city's communications, power and other infrastructure projects should be upgraded to "world-class standards."

She also vowed to increase fund allocations for the poorer barangays from the city's P1.1 billion annual budget, particularly for basic services such as water, electricity, health care and education.

One of the things she will push for is the immediate extension of the Skyway from Bicutan to Alabang to further cut travel time from Muntinlupa to other parts of Metro Manila, according to her.

She said developing Muntinlupa into an alternative business district would decongest Makati and Ortigas, which are already suffering from worsening traffic congestion that tends to discourage new investors.

Masangkay explained that Muntinlupa has the facilities and space to absorb new businesses, referring to the sprawling Madrigal Business Park and the Gotianun-managed Filinvest Corporate City.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Rudy to form 'conscience' task force

LABAN ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa mayoral candidate Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez said he would form Task Force Konsensiya ng Bayan to help him fight graft and corruption in Quezon City.

This was Fernandez's answer when asked how he would implement his policy on a responsive and honest government.

Fernandez said the members of the task force would come from the academe, non-government organizations, business and religious sector.

He said the first job of the task force would be to evaluate the city government's existing systems and policies and make recommendations within 100 days.

The task force would also monitor the activities of the Pre-qualification, Bidding and Awards Committee, he said.

"If the task force finds any anomalies, it will initiate the filing of appropriate charges against the suspects before the Office of the Ombudsman," Fernandez explained.

He added that he intends to give incentives to reward efficient and honest city hall officials and employees.

"As we penalize corrupt officials and employees, we will also reward efficient and honest city hall officials and employees who work hard," Fernandez said.

RUDY F visits Quezon City's Lourdes School on Retiro Street.

Fresnedi raids Muntinlupa night clubs

MUNTINLUPA Mayor Jaime Fresnedi recently ordered a saturation and rescue operation for teeners working in the city's nightclubs.

The operation was led by the local social services department's Lyn Robediso in cooperation with the Philippine National Police Women's and Children's Desk headed by SPO4 Estella Formales.

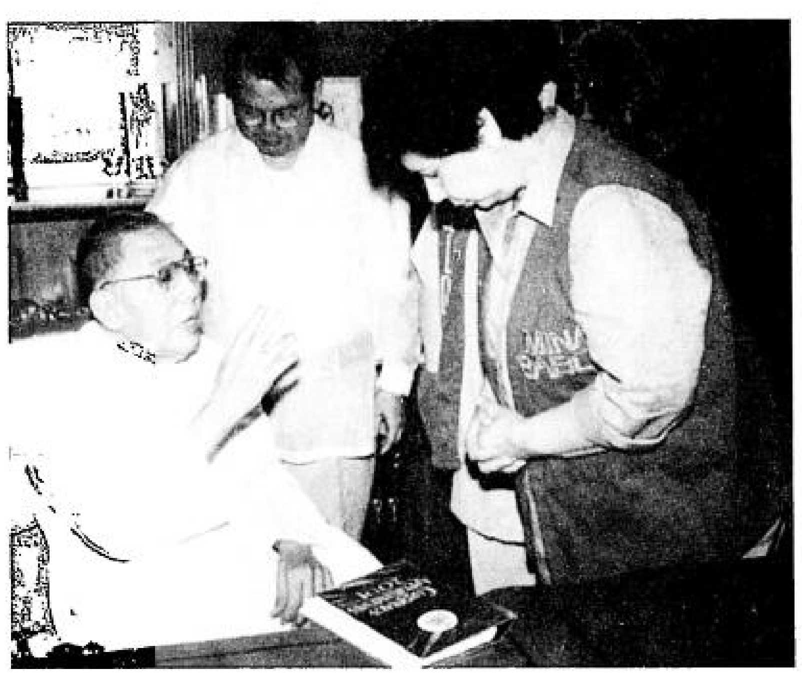
The raids were conducted on bars along the stretch from Tunasan to Sucat. The lawmen rescued more than 150 people and arrested bar owners for violation of Republic Act No. 7610 or The Child Protection Law.

Of the 150, two were 16 years old, 52 were streetchildren and the rest were 19 years old and older.

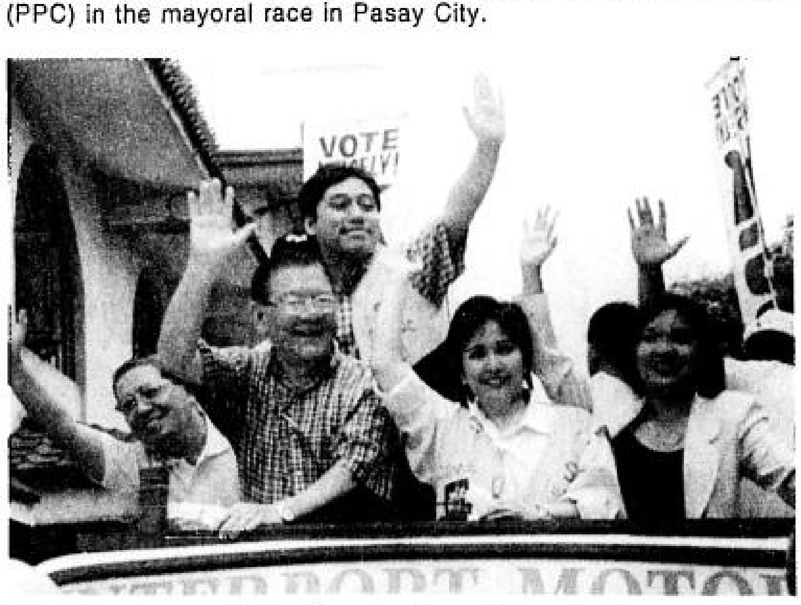
The city's Business Permit and Licensing Office told the bar owners to strictly adhere to the local government's fight against obscene shows or their establishments would be permanently closed.

The parents of the rescued teeners and streetchildren were summoned to the SSD office warned not to make their children work until they have reached the proper age.

The SSD advised the women to go back to their provinces in Visayas and Mindanao while the orphans among the streetchildren were sent to the Nayon ng mga Batang Lansangan—on Naia Road—which is run by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.



FORMER Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor receives the blessing of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. Gabor is the official candidate of the Reporma and Aksyon parties under the People Power Coalition (PPC) in the mayoral race in Pasay City.



SPEAKER Sonny "SB" Belmonte, (second from left) People Power Coalition candidate for Quezon City mayor, and his running mate Vice Mayor Connie Angeles (center) launch their citywide campaign with a motorcade. With them are 4th district congressional bet Nanette Castillo Daza, and 4th district council aspirants Bong Suntay (right), Ricky "Viva" del Rosario (left) and Areil Inton.

Comelec commissioners in party-list meet

COMMISSIONER Luzviminda G. Tancangco and Commissioner Rex Z. Borra of the Commission on Elections will be the principal speakers of the First Party-list Congress tomorrow, April 10, at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Other speakers in the one-day national meeting of nominees and leaders of party-list groups are former trade secretary Jose Concepcion Jr., chair of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), and former Comelec chair and Constitutional Commission delegate Ramon Felipe Jr.

Personalities from the academe, media and the House of Representatives have also been invited to act as session chair, resource speakers and reactors.

They include party-list Rep. Etta Ann Rosales, lawyer Ricardo Blancaflor, Ma. Alice Colet-Villadolid, Comelec director for information and education Angelina Matibag, NCR KBP chair Rey Langit, Sun-Star publisher and Manila Overseas Press Club president Hector RR Villanueva, and Tina Monson Palma of ABS-CBN.

The agenda covers strategies for winning in the party-list election; how to make full use of the media in promoting the party-list system and win the elections; assessment of the 1998 party-list elections; how to protect party-list votes in the May 14 elections; the implications of the Supreme Court ruling on the party-list groups proclaimed by the Comelec as winners; and the party-list law and the mandates of the Constitution.

Interested nominees, leaders and other parties may register in Room 817, Century Park Hotel, or 528-8888, or at 3/F Palacio Grande Bldg., 527-3440, 527-33325, and fax 527-3441.

SILVERIO and Makati council aspirant Bohg Daza visit Makati residents.

Marquez gifts residents with 'power of education'

WITHOUT paying a single centavo, 212 students enrolled in four courses completed their first semester at the Parañaque College of Science and Technology in Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City.

According to Mayor Joey P. Marquez, the 212 students, all residents of Parañaque, will enjoy free education at the PCST until they finish their two-year vocational courses in garments, electronics and computer technology.

If the vocational graduates wish to pursue higher education without paying any tuition, their courses can be upgraded to academic courses for up to four years leading to a bachelor of arts diploma in their fields of specialization, Marquez said.

The PCST is a project of the Parañaque City council. "I believe in the power of education to raise a person's standard of living," said Marquez.

"I hope that through the free college education that our council is giving to poor but deserving residents of the city, we are taking a big step in preparing them for a better future for themselves and their families," the mayor said.

"In effect, we are all looking at the PCST as a tool not only to help my constituents get free college or vocational education," he said.

"Through it, we are also curbing the unemployment problem in the city by providing educated manpower."

Of the 212 students at the free college, 124 are males and 88 are females.

Marquez said he expects more enrollees next school year.

JV Estrada vows to make San Juan greener, cleaner

JV ESTRADA, who is running for mayor of San Juan, pledged to transform the historic town into a greener and cleaner community that would make its residents proud.

"My administration will make sure San Juan residents will enjoy clean air, potable water, a pristine San Juan River and garbage-free surroundings," Estrada said.

He said he would make the rehabilitation of the San Juan River a cornerstone of his administration. To boost the town's tourism, he would launch a badly needed ferryboat service in the San Juan River and build a promenade along its banks.

He said his administration would run after industries and individuals polluting the air and water.

He promised to "pick up the broom myself" and lead residents in a townwide beautification and cleanliness program.

Running under the Puwersa ng Masa party, the former Jaycees national president launched a five-point program designed to turn San Juan around and make it a model in Metro Manila.

The program includes starting an affordable health care and nutrition project; making sure the town's streets are safe and the environment drug-free; maintaining a peaceful community with a friendly police force; providing opportunities for residents to study, work and own a business; and building a San Juan that leads Metro Manila in manufacturing, science education and computer skills development.

Melon Silverio wants to work for the poor and the rich

MAKATI CITY'S first district is home to the country's wealthiest and poorest. Melon Recto-Silverio hopes to represent both.

Silverio is running for a congressional seat in Makati's first district under the Lakas-NUCD-PPC, with Edu Manzano who is running for mayor and Dean Barbers for vice mayor.

Melon is up against Armida Siguion-Reyna and Teddy Boy Locsin. She is banking on the record of services she performed for Makati's poor.

Melon grew up on Paraiso Street in Dasmariñas Village and studied at the Assumption Convent. From 1974 to 1978, she headed a feeding program. Later, she joined the Secular Order of St. Francis of Assisi. She and her husband Albert closed their brokerage and trucking businesses and devoted the next few years to serving the poor.

Melon set up a clinic in impoverished Barangay Maricaban in Pasay City from 1983 to 1987. She and Albert later adopted Makati's Barangay Singkamas, where she established a scholarship program and a medical-dental clinic for children from 1983 to 1985.

In 1989, Melon ran and won as a barangay council member in Makati. She also became a board member of CRIBS, an organization that cares for abandoned babies and victims of sexual abuse.

Melon and Albert have three children: Twinky, 26, who manages Marty's Barber Shop on Pasay Road; Martin, 23, who is promo coordinator of Ace Co. in Cebu; and Karla, 20. Twinky, Karla and their father accompany Melon in her house-to-house sorties to push her agenda on housing, health and education.

"As a mother, I will defend the rights of women and push for quality and affordable education for the youth of Makati," Melon said.

Melon said she was touched when, during a visit to one barangay, one man whose son had been killed described her thus: "Ah, Melon, *ang pamatid-uhaw sa mga uhaw na uhaw sa hustisya.*"

FAMAS 2001
It's Dolphy's son again

By Alex Y. Vergara

JEFFREY Quizon is one win shy of a grand slam. He bagged his third consecutive best supporting actor trophy during Saturday's 49th annual Filipino Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) awards night.

Quizon played a budding homosexual before World War II in "Markova: Comfort Gay." The film, which also stars his father Dolphy and older brother Eric Quizon, was loosely based on the life of Walter Dempster Jr., who claims Japanese soldiers made him a sex slave.

Quizon won best supporting awards for the same role in the Star and Urian awards several weeks ago.

Members of the Film Academy of the Philippines will stage their awards night on May 5, capping off the long awards season in the local movie industry.

"This is heavier than I thought," said Quizon in Filipino as he held his first Famas trophy. "'Ma, Dad, Famas, *o*."

More than 25 awards, including several special citations, were given during the three-and-a-half-hour affair held at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

It was one of the shortest of its kind in recent memory.

"You're very lucky," Kris Aquino, one of the evening's hosts, told the audience during a lull in the show. "This is probably the fastest paced [awards night] of all."

Famas became notorious in the past for staging marathon events that stretched into the wee hours. (More on this and other tidbits in Lifestyle and Entertainment later.)

The award-giving body, considered the oldest in the country, is composed of members of various sectors of society.

Star Cinema's inspirational melodrama "Tanging Yaman," brought home eight awards, including best picture, best director (Laurice Guillen), best story (Guillen) and best actress (Gloria Romero). Guillen's husband Johnny Delgado also won as best actor.

"I'm so overwhelmed since this is the first time I've received a Famas," said Guillen in Taglish. "It is an institution. This is the original, so to speak."

Both Delgado and Romero were no-shows. Guillen received the award in Romero's behalf, while Guillen's daughters earlier climbed the stage to accept Delgado's trophy.

"When I was still a child growing up in the province," said Guillen in Filipino, as she paid tribute to her lead star, "I always looked forward to Gloria Romero's movies. She's truly a great actress, but this is seldom noticed because her style is light and restrained. I think she is at par with some of the world's best actresses."

It was Romero's second best actress award from Famas. She first earned the honor way back in 1953 for a comedy titled "Dalagang Ilocana."

After having won the same award five times, Vilma Santos, Romero's closest rival for the top acting plum, has already earned a place in the Famas Hall of Fame and is no longer eligible for a nomination.

"Tanging Yaman" also won awards for Shaina Magdayao (best child actress), Videlle Meily (best cinematography), George Jarlego (best editing) and Nonong Buencamino (best musical direction).

Aside from Guillen and Delgado, Alessandra da Rossi also bagged her first Famas for best supporting actress for "Azucena."

The evening's other winners were Patrick Ervie Mateo (best child actor, "Ipinanganak na ang Taong Papatay sa Iyo"); Jose Javier Reyes (best screenplay, "Sugatang Puso"); Albert Michael Idioma and Rudy Gonzales ("Death Row").

Recipients of special memorial awards named after their deceased donors were Donita Rose (Dr. Ciriaco Santiago), Edwin Roxas (Dr. Jose Perez), Ramon Zamora (Lou Salvador Sr.), and Chit Sambile (Flavio Macaso).

German Moreno also gave a pair of youth achievement awards to Angelika de la Cruz and Cogie Domingo. Cherie Gil, in a backless black number by Inno Sotto, and Diether Ocampo bagged the female and male "stars of the night."

RANDY HORMILLOSA

AND THE AWARDS go to (from left) Quizon, special awardee Rose, director Guillen, and Da Rossi.

Four questioned on Parañaque ambush of prosecutor's son

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE have picked up four people, two of them teenagers, for questioning by police in connection with the ambush slaying of a son of Manila prosecutor Domingo Orda in Parañaque City on April 2.

The four were arrested late Saturday afternoon at an FX taxi terminal in Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila where they worked as dispatchers, an investigator of the Parañaque police said yesterday.

Police had not identified the four they arrested pending further investigation.

Witnesses identified one of the four as the one who shot Francis Orda, 20, while the young man was driving along Saudi Arabia Street on the night of April 2, said PO1 Rommel Padios.

Orda, of 34 Vietnam St., Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque, was driving home in a green Mitsubishi Lancer when waylaid and shot by three men.

After making sure that Orda was dead, the gunmen escaped in a getaway vehicle.

The suspects in the killing of Orda apparently mistook him for his father, who had already survived two ambushes, one last month and the other one last year, according to police.

Authorities also learned that the older Orda had received death threats.

Earlier, police were eyeing a personal grudge between the young Orda's wife and the spouse of a barangay official as the motive behind the ambush.

But police did not rule out the possibility that the gunmen could have been hired by the operator of an illegal FX/bus terminal in Liwasang Bonifacio who got an unfavorable ruling from the fiscal.

Following the death of his son, the older Orda requested for increased police protection for him and his family.

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Man avoids getting hit by truck, but is killed by driver

INSTEAD of saying sorry, truck driver Eric D Alpos, 23, stabbed dead a man he nearly ran over in Quezon City on Saturday night.

Alpos, of 40 Aguinaldo St., Barangay IBS Marikina, killed Rolan R. Raquel, 40, of 65 Road 1, Project 6, Quezon City, after the latter complained about Alpos' reckless driving, said investigator PO3 Leo T. Tabuena of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Raquel was standing outside his house with his friends Victor Navarro, a Carding and two other men when Alpos's Isuzu Elf (WER-504) came rushing toward them, Tabuena said.

"Alpos was driving recklessly and he nearly sideswiped Raquel and his friends," the investigator said.

Raquel approached the truck, which had stopped, and confronted Alpos. But the driver neither apologized nor got off his truck, Tabuena said.

The two men argued, the policeman said. At the height of their argument, Alpos alighted from his truck.

Unknown to Raquel, Alpos had a knife ready. When the driver got near enough, he lunged at Raquel and stabbed him in the chest.

Alpos then quickly boarded his truck and drove away, witnesses said.

Raquel's friends brought him to the Veteran's Memorial Medical Hospital but he died while undergoing surgery around 11:35 p.m., Tabuena said.

The victim's relatives, however, had a small consolation when policemen from the Baler police station caught the suspect at the corner of Road 1 and Road 8 in Project 8, Tabuena added.

Alpos is now detained at the CPD-CIU detention cell in Camp Karingal at Sikatuna Village in Quezon City.

Slain over a fence

MASON Victor Lagsila was murdered because he built a fence.

Lagsila, 32, of Area 4, Sitio Veteran's Village, Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, was shot dead with a homemade shotgun (*sumpak*) near his home on Saturday night, said investigator PO2 Joseph Diño of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Lagsila's godfather, Nilo Maquiling, 61, yesterday went to the CPD-CIU office in Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village and told reporters that a certain Jose Geli got mad at Lagsila because the latter was one of the workers who constructed a fence in their squatter neighborhood.

The fence was supposed to mark the boundary between the squatters and a private housing project that was being developed, Maquiling said.

Geli and other squatters oppose the private housing project and got mad when the fence was set up, according to Maquiling.

Lagsila was walking along Dove Street in Area 4 around 8:45 p.m. Saturday when the gunman struck, Diño said.

The unidentified man appeared from out of the shadows and blocked Lagsila's path. Before Lagsila realized what was happening, the stranger pulled out the *sumpak* and shot him, Diño said.

Lagsila's wife brought him to the Sto. Niño Medical Clinic, where he was declared dead on arrival at around 9 p.m., Diño said.

Maquiling and an alleged witness were waiting for Diño yesterday in Camp Karingal. The policeman works in the night shift.

Maquiling said it would be dangerous for them to go home after dark because of the tension in their neighborhood following Lagsila's killing.

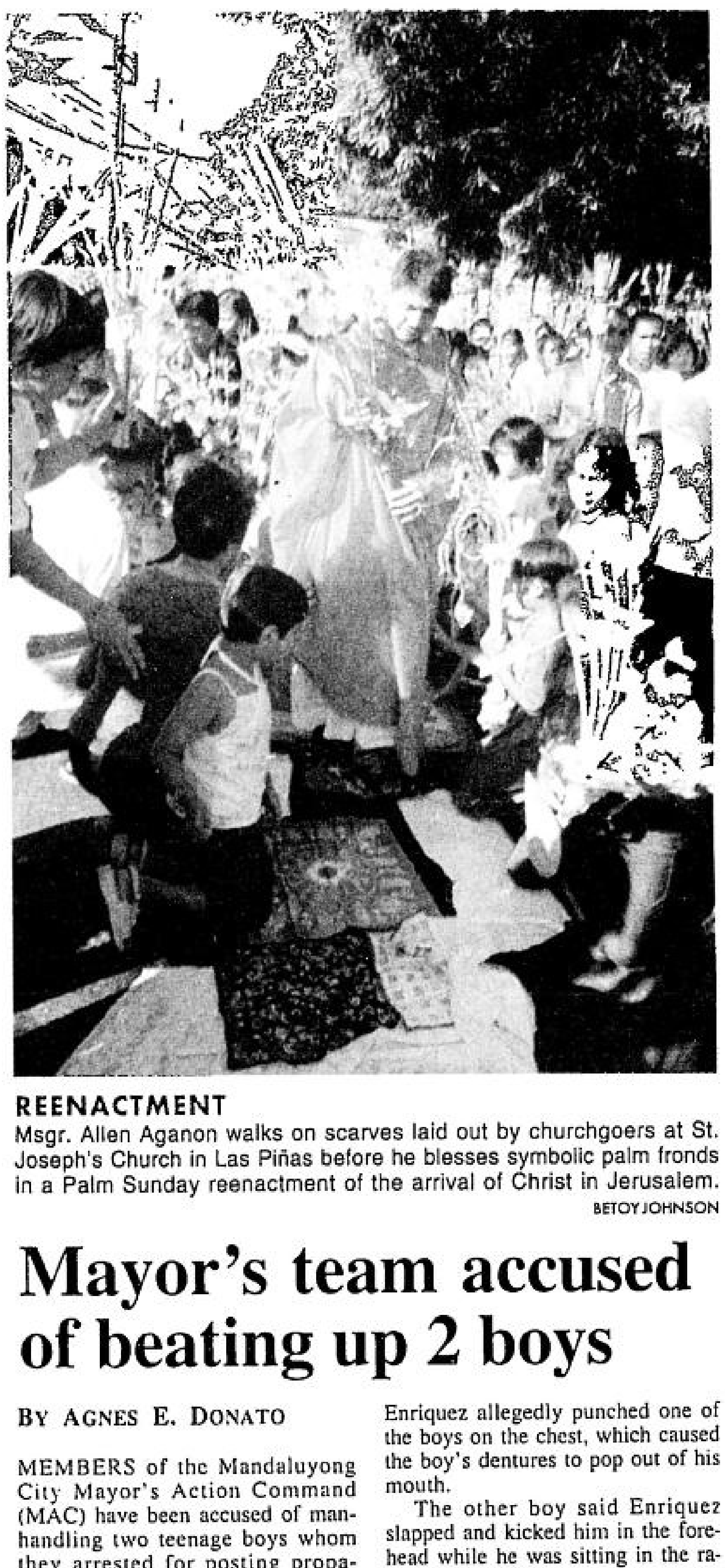
Traffic Watch 2001

IN KEEPING with its tradition of service to the motoring public, radio station 105.1 Crossover's Traffic Watch will keep travelers company on the road to and around popular vacation destinations in the north and south.

Starting Wednesday, Crossover will air twice every hour fresh reports from REACT Communications and Citizen Traffic Action, with the assistance of the Philippine National Red Cross.

It will also give traffic updates between 7:15 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. on April 11, 12 and 15 and between 12:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. on April 14.

Traffic Watch is presented by Shell Gabay Manlalakbay 2001 and Mitsubishi Lancer GSR in cooperation with Don Henrico's.



REENACTMENT
Msgr. Allen Aganon walks on scarves laid out by churchgoers at St. Joseph's Church in Las Piñas before he blesses symbolic palm fronds in a Palm Sunday reenactment of the arrival of Christ in Jerusalem.
BETOY JOHNSON

Mayor's team accused of beating up 2 boys

By Agnes E. Donato

MEMBERS of the Mandaluyong City Mayor's Action Command (MAC) have been accused of manhandling two teenage boys whom they arrested for posting propaganda materials against the administration candidates.

The boys, both 17 and both residents of Barangay San Jose in Mandaluyong, were allegedly detained and mauled by MAC head Tito Enriquez and Marlon Garcia inside the MAC office.

But Enriquez, in a telephone interview, denied that he and Garcia beat up the boys. He said the boys were even made to undergo a medical check-up before vandalism charges were filed against them at the local prosecutor's office.

Lawyer Ernesto Labilles, legal counsel of the boys, said members of MAC arrested his clients at about 12:45 p.m. Thursday for allegedly posting near their house stickers bearing "Mandaluyong 15-30 Resign," which is said to be a campaign line of former Mandaluyong vice mayor and now mayoral candidate Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo.

But the boys denied the accusation. Domingo has accused incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos of maintaining ghost employees in his administration.

The boys were taken to the MAC headquarters on the ground floor of the city hall parking area for questioning, their lawyer said.

Labilles said the two boys were indeed brought to the Mandaluyong Medical Center for checkup. But he said they were again taken to the MAC office to be interrogated on what they knew about the Mandaluyong 15-30 (or ghost employees) issue.

During this second questioning, Enriquez allegedly punched one of the boys on the chest, which caused the boy's dentures to pop out of his mouth.

The other boy said Enriquez slapped and kicked him in the forehead while he was sitting in the radio room of MAC.

An unidentified MAC personnel was also accused of hitting the boy in the back of his head with a hard object.

The boys were later brought to the Mandaluyong police criminal investigation office, where a police officer took their statements.

They were then taken to the office of Chief Prosecutor Pablito Gahol for the filing of charges.

They were detained until about 11 a.m. Saturday.

"Vandalism is obviously a light offense," Labilles said. "And the MAC men should not have detained these two minors for more than two days."

He said he would file countercharges of physical injuries against Enriquez and other MAC members involved in the alleged mauling.

Enriquez maintained that the accusations were "a political issue."

"They are just making a big deal out of the arrests because the elections are coming," he said.

Enriquez said members of MAC accosted the two boys because what they were posting were "not supposed to be part of the campaign anymore."

He also belied claims that his men were not authorized to make arrests. He said it was part of their duties as members of the Public Order and Safety office (POS).

Critics of Mayor Abalos earlier said the POS, MAC and the Task Force Anti-Vice composed the mayor's alleged private army.

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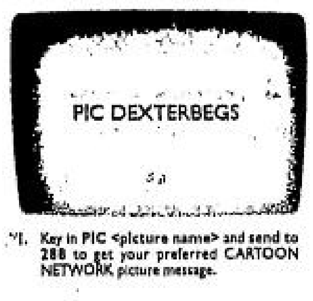

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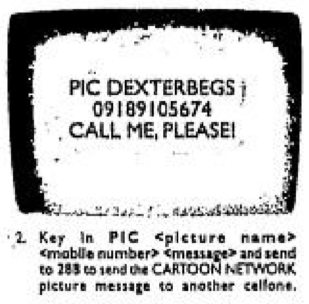

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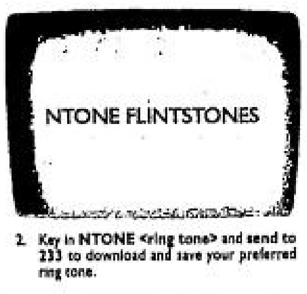

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9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
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3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
6 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
8	KRISTO
9	UHAW SA INIT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
6	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
3 (DTS)	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
Lords	BODY TO BODY
Jeanet	BABAENG PUTIK

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KRISTO
2	GLADIATOR
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THEY NEST
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
3	REVELATION
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	GLADIATOR
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
6	REVELATION

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3	REVELATION

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	QUILLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
4	GLADIATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DTS)	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
4	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	GLADIATOR
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	GLADIATOR
2	QUILLS
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	WOMAN ON TOP
2	[illegible]ABLA
3	UHAW SA INIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GLADIATOR
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS TEKA LANG
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL (049) 5314808

1 (DTS)	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	TOTAL AIKIDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	THE BAIT
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	GLADIATOR
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	ANAK
4 (DTS EX)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

*Movies [illegible] subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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2nd Level (Pedro Gil Gate)
Ermita, Manila

PLANET 9 BALL BILLIARDS-BAR FAMILY KTV

FOR RESERVATIONS PLS. CALL 5258292

Pinoy Blockbuster Channel airs Nova Villa filmfest

BIRTHDAY girl Nova Villa tickles funny bones this April with five of her films to be shown on Pinoy Blockbuster Channel from April 9-13, 1 p.m.

Nova is the wife of down and out ex-boxer played by master comedian Chiquito in the hilarious "Rocky Four-Ma," April 9.

She spoofs a former first lady and encounters aliens in the wacky "Eh Kasi, Bata," April 10.

She teams up with comedy king Dolphy in the comic parody, "Bakit Kinagat ni Adan ang Mansanas ni Eba," which also stars Panchito and Beverly Vergel, April 11.

Nova plays "kumare" to Vic Sotto and Dina Bonnevie in "Buhay Misis," April 12.

To end the filmfest, she teams up with diamond star Maricel Soriano and singer-actor Randy Santiago in the crazy comedy, "Taray at Teroy," April 12.

Pinoy Blockbuster Channel is available on SkyCable, Suncable and other quality cable operators nationwide.

For comments and suggestions, e-mail pinoy@sky.pinoycentral.com.

Plus One on Teen Philippines

RECENT Manila visitors and latest boy band heartthrobs Jeremy, Jason, Gabe, Nathan and Nate, also known as Plus One, grace the covers of Teen Philippines this month.

Read all about how the guys first got together, what makes them close as brothers, their likes and dislikes, how it's like living together and how they are away from the spotlight and screaming fans.

Plus One had well-received performances at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Hard Rock Café Makati and at the MTV Philippines launch.

The group's carrier single, "Last Flight Out," from their debut album, "The Promise," continues to lord it over various radio countdown charts.

The song's music video is included in the Top 10 charts.

'I-Witness' Comedians

WE often see them as people who make fun of themselves all for the sake of a good laugh. We see their comic antics and love them for it.

What we fail to give attention to the fact that beneath the "comic exterior," there lies a human being who also experiences the slings and arrows of life.

Watch the pride of GMA 7, "I-Witness," as Vicky Morales gets to know the people who make us laugh: Joey De Leon, Vic Sotto, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Arnell Ignacio and other stand-up and TV comedians.

"I-Witness" airs at 11 tonight.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail: htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. GLADIATOR
2. THEY NEST
3. THE EXORCIST / GREEN MILE
4. SEDUCER
5. PERFECT STORM / ROMEO MUST DIE
6. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
7. THE GIFT

GALLERIA

UNDER RENOVATION

Robinsons Movieworld aims to bring a new dimension to your viewing experience -- 10 brand new cinemas equipped with THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL soundsystem.

IMUS (046)875-3838

1. GLADIATOR
2. THE EXORCIST / GREEN MILE
3. THEY NEST
4. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5. PERFECT STORM / ROMEO MUST DIE
6. DIMAPIGIL ANG INIT

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. WEDDING PLANNER
2. SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3. MS. CONGENIALITY
4. QUILLS
5. TOO MUCH FLESH
6. PURPLE STORM

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	GLADIATOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
MIRAMAR	TUHOG / FIRST DESIRE
ODEON	GLADIATOR
ODEON-2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
ROBEN	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER • REMEMBER THE TITANS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	SEDUCER
REMAR-2	UHAW SA INIT

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SECRET OF THE ANDES
CINEMA-2	MS CONGENIALITY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

LORES

CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE GIFT
CINEMA-2	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-5	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

LOUIE'S CINEMA

LUCAS FILM THX
It'll Change the Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

Louie's THX Cinema will be closed from April 9-13, 2001 in observance of the coming Holy Week

Sweet November
Keanu Reeves
Charlize Theron
opens Saturday April 14, 2001

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Don't take those clothes off just yet, girls and boys

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS recently as two weeks ago, a young actress and a boy-next-door type announced that they had decided to change their screen image from wholesome to bold, because that was the fastest way they could achieve movie stardom.

Then came the government's drive against extremely erotic movies, and the country's latest batch of bold recruits now find themselves holding the bag.

Well, don't take those clothes off just yet, boys and girls. Wait and see how the current anti-bold campaign develops. And we wouldn't hold our breath, if we were you. It looks like the reformers mean business, this time, and you could be in for the long haul.

Better still, why don't you keep your shirt—or skirt—on, and try to develop your other talents, if you have any? Making it as an actress or singer may take more time, but at least you won't be constantly worrying that yet another government clampdown could put your bold career on hold again, and consign your hot movies to the freezer, possibly for years on end.

Besides, appearing in bold movies isn't as harmless an activity as some bold starlets and stars make it appear to be.

They keep saying, "*Trabaho lang ito, walang personalan*," "What I do onscreen has nothing to do with what I am in real life" and "I may do steamy bed scenes and take off all my clothes in the movies, but I'm still a virgin," but things are often not as "innocent" as they would want you to believe.

Little by little, sordid stories about the exploitation and abuse that take place during the production of bold movies have been making the rounds. So, young performers are advised not to jump on the bold bandwagon!

'Finding Forrester'

GUS Van Sant's new film, "Finding Forrester," tells the uplifting story of the unusual relationship between a famous author (**Sean Connery**) and a teenager (**Rob Brown**) who changes his life.

The author, Forrester, won the Pulitzer Prize for his first novel decades ago, but soon dropped out of sight. It's up to **Jamal Wallace** (Brown), a brash 16-year-old who also wants to become a writer, to crack through the novelist's sheltered existence and reignite his artistic passion.

But their friendship is tested when a charge of plagiarism is leveled against Jamal by an autocratic professor (**F. Murray Abraham**). It's a moment of truth for both men: for Jamal, a choice between following his dream or betraying a friend, and for Forrester, remaining closed off from the world or participating in it again, with renewed energy and involvement.

Van Sant's film opens at Glorietta 4 in April 14.

Two Julia Roberts starrers

STAR Movies presents two movies starring **Julia Roberts**. At 9 p.m. today, April 9, "Pretty Woman" costars Roberts with **Richard Gere**. Replays are on April 15 at 9:45 a.m. and April 20 at 1 a.m.

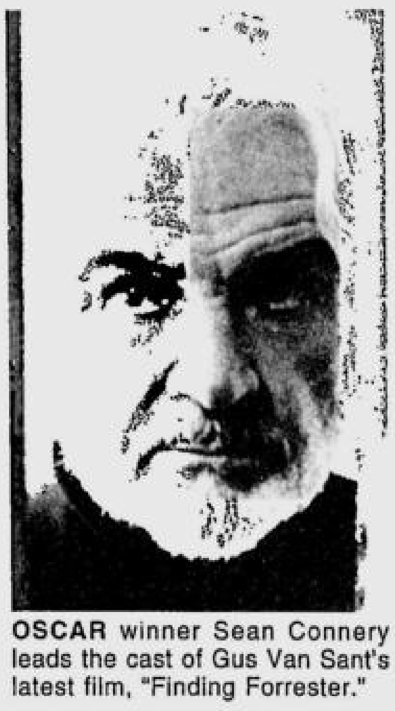
On Tuesday, April 10 at 9 p.m., "Notting Hill" topbills Roberts, **Hugh Grant** and **Rhys Ifans**. Julia plays a famous Hollywood star who has a romance with an obscure bookseller (Grant). The movie will be replayed on April 19 at 5 p.m.

'From Star Wars to Star Wars'

TO LEAD up to the TV premiere of "Star Wars Episode 1, The Phantom Menace" on Star Movies this month, the movie channel presents a series of special programs, starting with "From Star Wars to Star Wars," today, April 9, at 8:15 a.m. and 8 p.m.

The show chronicles the history of Industrial Light & Magic, from its early days at a ramshackle warehouse in Van Nuys to the state-of-the-art digital dream factory it is today.

The tribute reveals the secrets behind the company's groundbreaking special-effects achievements, plus rare behind-he-scenes footage on the making of "The Phanton Menace."



OSCAR winner Sean Connery leads the cast of Gus Van Sant's latest film, "Finding Forrester."

Apo sings to save the Pasig

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JIM Paredes, Danny Javier and **Buboy Garovillo** of the Apo Hiking Society, who are always expected to lend their talents to concerts for a cause, did not think twice when they were invited to perform in the latest benefit show for the Pasig River rehabilitation.

On April 17 at 7 p.m. the Apo will perform in "Muling Aawit ang Pasig Concert, Year Six," at the PICC Reception Hall, together with **Jaya** and **Lani Misalucha**.

Jim has been a trustee of the Clean and Green Foundation since its formation in 1994.

Previous benefit concerts for the Pasig River featured such artists as **Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Kuh Ledesma**, The CompanY, **Vina Morales, Geneva Cruz, Cris Villonco** and **Ella Mae Saison**. In one show, former First Lady **Amelita Ramos**, chair of the Clean and Green Foundation, even played the piano and earned an extended standing ovation.

The shows are directed by stage/TV director, scriptwriter and Palanca awardee **Floy Quintos**.

The Pasig River concerts are filled with songs and interpretative dances on the environment. While some production outfits and TV networks stage occasional musicals and concerts for the environment, no project has been as sustained as the "Muling Aawit ang Pasig" concerts.

The show is presented in time for the celebration of International Earth Day on April 22.

In previous years, the shows were staged at the Malacañang Palace grounds, the Metropolitan Museum and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Credit the country's most awarded TV network, GMA 7, and the Clean and Green Foundation for bonding together and conceptualizing the Pasig River benefit concerts.

Six years ago, the two entities launched a long-term partnership to stage an annual project for the rehabilitation of the river.

Co-chair of the Clean and Green Foundation is First Husband **Miguel Arroyo**. Vice chair is **Ricardo Pascua** and treasurer is **Doris Ho**.

Other members of the board of trustees, aside from Jim, are **Narda Camacho, Angel Ramos-Jones, Boots Anson Roa** and **Feliciano Cruz Jr**.

For tickets to the concert, call 527-6378, 527-6479 or 528-0976.

QUINTO. Finds more challenge in drama

'Booba' busy

AS far as cager **Rudy Hatfield** and sexy actress **Rufa Mae Quinto** are concerned, marriage is not yet in their plans.

"It crops up once in a while when we talk, but we don't really plan about it," Rufa Mae says.

Rufa Mae is now more focused on her career, especially after the success of her first solo starrer, "Booba." Her newest movie is the Viva Films comedy "Baliktaran," opposite **Bayani Agbayani** and directed by **Al Tantay**. And even before that is shown, Rufa will already start another movie with young megman **Yam Laranas**, whose directorial debut was "Balahibong Pusa."

Rufa Mae is not just busy with movie projects. In recording, she will soon launch her second single, "Lupaypay," from her debut album from Viva Records.

On TV, she will be seen in a four-episode series on GMA's "Larawan," starting Wednesday, April 11.

Rufa is excited about "Larawan" because it will have her doing drama, for a change. For the pilot episode, she plays **Ickay**, a 21-year-old woman who is in Grade 5. The episode is directed by **Joel Lamangan.**

"In all my years in the business, I've been doing comedy," Rufa says. "I find more challenge in drama, that's why I enjoyed working on this particular episode. I cried the first time I read the script."

She even gets to pit acting talents with veterans **Mark Gil** and **Elizabeth Oropesa**. "My costars were all very good *pero nakipagsabayan ako sa kanila*," she beams. "I also worked with a very good director."

She will also work with director **Rico Gutierrez** in an episode shot on the beach. She will be handled by **Ruel Bayani** in the episode "Heredera," with **Jimmy Santos, Princess Punzalan, Bojo Molina** and **Bella Flores**.

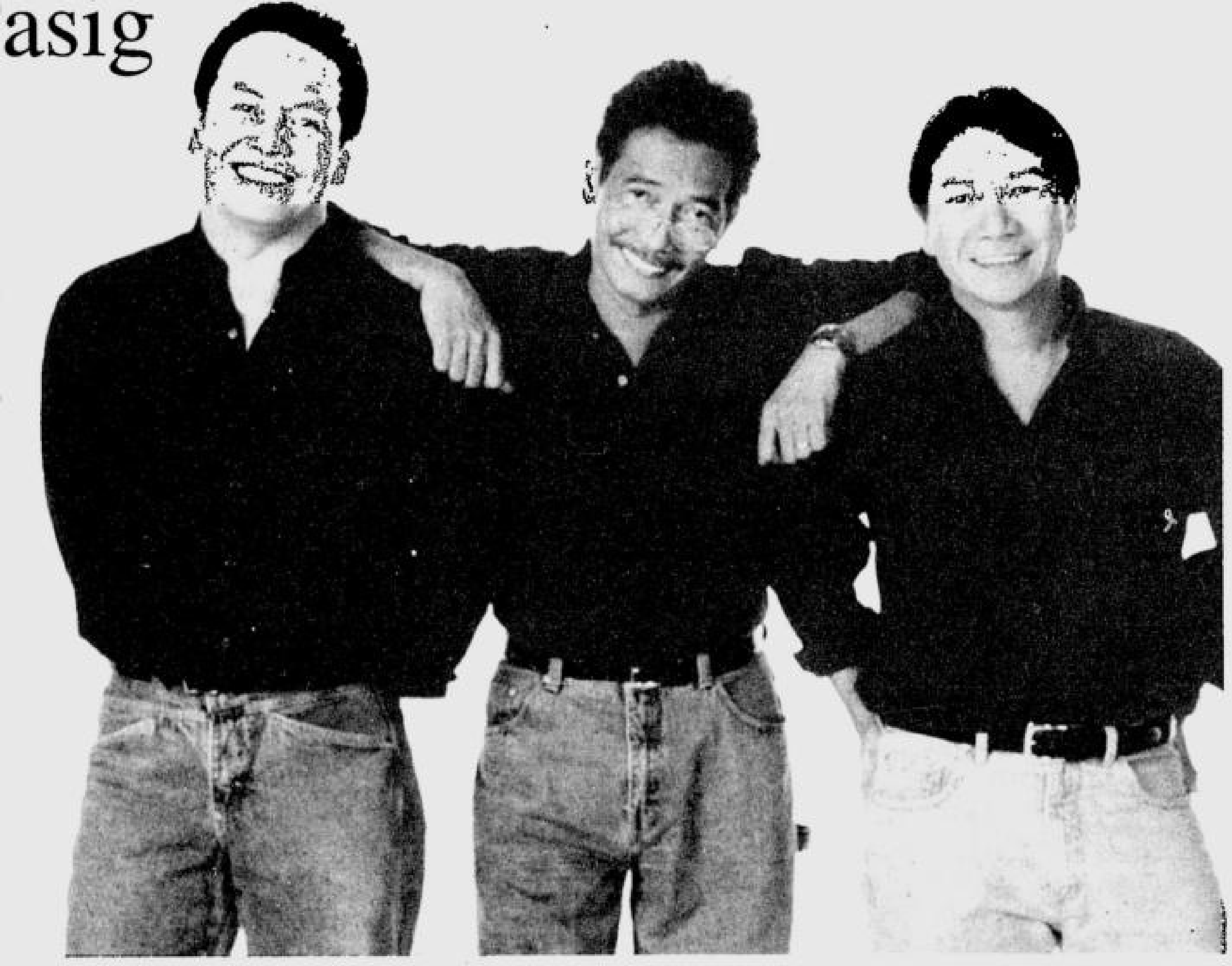
Her "Booba" director, **Joyce Bernal**, will make her first TV directorial job in "Larawan."

All-star 'Kristo'

IF you're not going out of town this Holy Week, catch the retelling of the Passion of Christ in the film "Kristo," on Good Friday, April 13, 7 p.m. on Pinoy Blockbuster Channel.

The title role is played by **Mat Ranillo III**, with a powerhouse supporting cast which includes **Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon, Gabby Concepcion, Aga Muhlach** and **Amy Austria**.

"Kristo" is a Lenten offering of Pinoy Blockbuster Channel which is seen on SkyCable, SunCable and other cable operators nationwide.



THE APO Hiking Society trio of Jim Paredes, Danny Javier and Buboy Garrovillo.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

THE GIFT - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30	GLADIATOR - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
CHOCOLAT - P 13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P13

Two hit animé movies released on video

IN today's world, friendship is a thing taken for granted by man, especially adults. Good foundation about friendship is best taught upon children of impressionable age.

"Dragon Ball, Son Gokou and Friends" and "Ghostfighter: The Next Mission," are two animé hit movies that deals extensively about friendship. They are now on video released recently by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

In "Dragon Ball," son Gokou reunites with Kirin at the Kame House to reestablish their strength for the coming tournament. While testing their stamina, they stumble upon a cave and are held captive by strange creatures, keeping them away from the magical brilliant gem which accidentally fall into Gokou's hand.

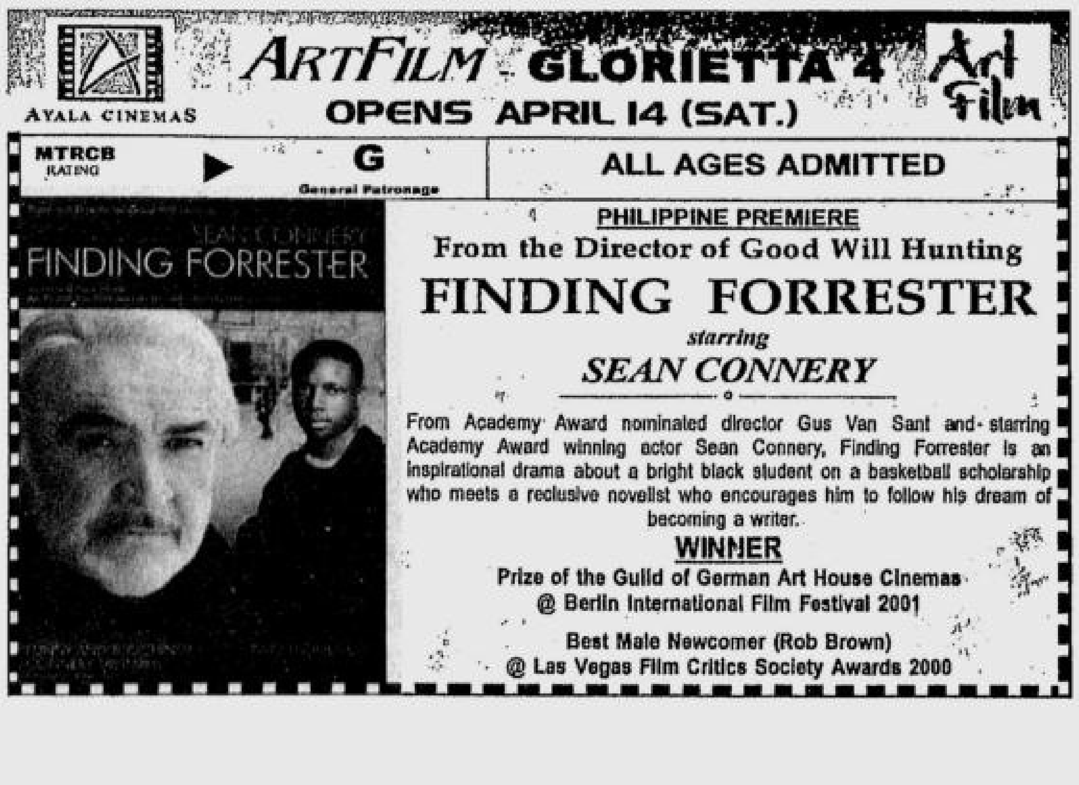
They escape just in time for the tournament and Gokou defeats Kao-Pai-Tek. Meantime, Bulma and Yamcha discover six Dragon Balls that sink down to a deep lagoon as they were chased off by the guards. If Gokou can gather all the six balls, the Great Dragon will appear to grant any wish.

In "Ghostfighter," Eugene and company's vacation was cut short when they are summoned to rescue a friend, Jericho, against the evil and powerful Garuga who wants to take possession of all the gold stamps in the Lava Valley.

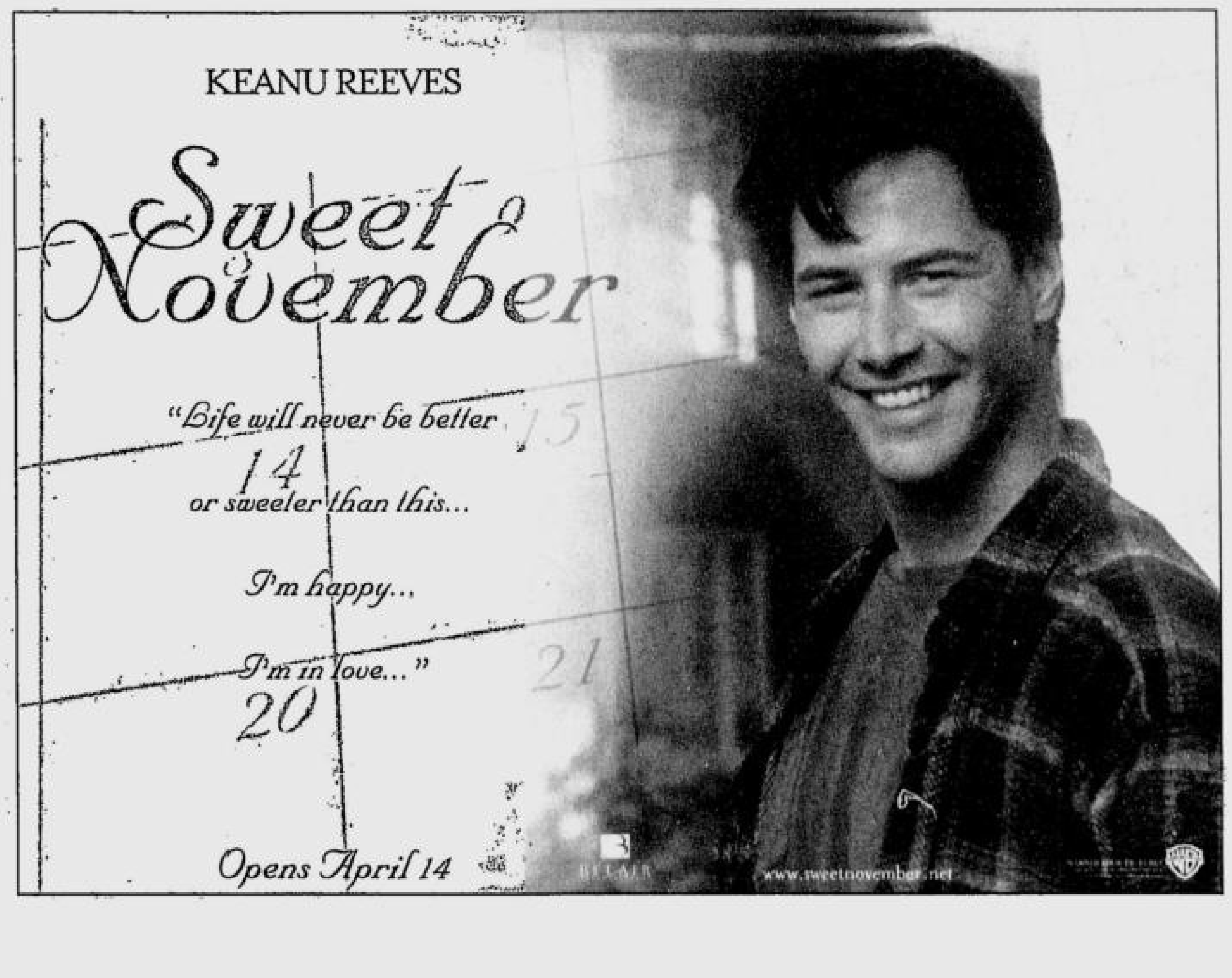
The gold stamps can release Median, Garuga's master, from the spiritual world and eventually wreck havoc in the world of mortals. Along the way, the Ghostfighters have to fight a host of other evil and deadly creatures.

With special promo for children, the two hit animé movies are available in both VCD and VHS tapes.

For details, call C-Interactive at 245-5011-12 or visit your favorite video outlets.



AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
OPENS APRIL 14 (SAT.)
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Director of Good Will Hunting
FINDING FORRESTER
starring
SEAN CONNERY
From Academy Award nominated director Gus Van Sant and starring Academy Award winning actor Sean Connery, Finding Forrester is an inspirational drama about a bright black student on a basketball scholarship who meets a reclusive novelist who encourages him to follow his dream of becoming a writer.
WINNER
Prize of the Guild of German Art House Cinemas @ Berlin International Film Festival 2001
Best Male Newcomer (Rob Brown) @ Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2000



KEANU REEVES
Sweet November
"Life will never be better or sweeter than this... I'm happy... I'm in love..."
Opens April 14
www.sweetnovember.net

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Terrific Tagaytay

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

WE have a terrific Easter episode on "The Buzz." Boy Abunda goes surfing in La Union with heartthrob-of-the-moment **Jericho Rosales**, **Diether Ocampo** and **Rica Peralejo** enjoy the sun and sea in Island Cove in Cavite. And **Pops Fernandez**, her sons **Robin** and **Ram**, **Josh** and myself enjoyed food galore, terrific rooms and world-class amenities in Tagaytay.

We motored to Tagaytay late Wednesday, April 4. We were billeted at Days Inn, which made us feel like we were in a United States suburb. The room was spacious, the aircon was very cold, and the beds (two full-sized ones) had firm mattresses, crisp white sheets, and plump pillows.

The television had the best of what Sky and Home cable have to offer—Pinoy Blockbuster, Viva Cinema, Disney, Star Movies, CNN, HBO, and ANC, to name a few. I can't wait for the Sky–Home merger to take effect so that we can have all these channels available in Metro Manila.

Best of all, the shower had very strong water pressure!

Thursday, we started with a midmorning picnic at Days Inn's poolside grounds. The view of Taal Lake was magnificent.

Next we had lunch in Gourmet Café. The salad greens were crisp. I had Chicken ala Kiev that was very flavorful. Josh loved the cream of tomato soup and the garlic French bread. Robin ordered the club sandwich. Josh got jealous and grabbed one of his quarters as well as a handful of his fries.

Robin was so cute when he told Pops, "Mom, the camera caught that, right? So people will see that I'm really a nice guy coz I didn't get mad at him." Seeing the close bonding between Robin and Ram really makes me wish that Josh also had a sibling to grow up with.

Next we visited Tagaytay Highlands. We went to the Trellis area where the swimming pools are located. The water was very inviting so while Pops and I taped the remainder of our interview, Josh kept diving and floating around in the baby pool. Robin and Ram were busy bowling.

The view from this area is great because you see the mountains in the distance, and the cable cars pass seemingly directly overhead.

We had snack in the pool area's dining room. The *pancit canton* was very flavorful, and went perfectly with the *pan de sal* with *kesong puti*. Robin had the *adobo* with *sinangag*. It looked and smelled sumptuous. I couldn't resist asking him if I could try. He's really a sweet *kuya* and he shared with me.

Pops and I asked if we could have a tour of the Spa and Lodge, Tagaytay Highlands' latest development. I've never been to Aspen, Colorado but this place comes closest to what I envision a luxury log cabin in Aspen would be like.

The deal is that you have to own either a club or golf share, and for an additional P850,000 you have a time share in the Spa and Lodge, which entitles you to free 24 nights a year.

Pops and I kept trying to convince **Brenda** of Highlands to persuade her bosses to allow us to share a membership. Since we're both single, we reasoned out that we could be considered as a couple and our three boys our dependents. We even promised that if we already have significant others, they wouldn't partake of our club share.

As we departed, however, Brenda still seemed far from convinced to plead our case.

All that sun and activity pooped me out. I took an early evening nap while Josh had another swim at the Days Inn pool, with **Anthony Pangilinan** and his wife **Maricel Laxa** (who is now six months pregnant with their fourth baby, and is the slimmest and prettiest *buntis* I've ever seen). Anthony and Maricel were there to conduct a team-building seminar.

There's something in the Tagaytay air that really stirred my appetite. When we had dinner in Josephine's, Josh finished a whole order of *inihaw na baboy*. I succumbed and ate a whole cup of rice with my very fresh *halabos na hipon*, my favorite *adobong pusit*, *laing*, and non-oily, very crispy *litson kawali*. For dessert, I had *leche flan*. The non-stop pig-out must have given me five pounds just that Thursday!

I hadn't been to Tagaytay in over a year. It's less than two hours away from Quezon City, provided you travel at night. I realized how much fun it was for Josh and me to be in a place with very fresh air, delicious and abundant food, and cozy accommodations. There was more than enough to do and to see.

If you haven't finalized your Holy Week vacation plans or you just want to go somewhere to unwind that's still nearby, Tagaytay's the place.

Manoeuvres to teach street dancing in QC

IF YOU'RE a dance lover who have always wanted to do some kind of fancy footwork the Manoeuvres are known for, here's your chance to learn street dancing from the group itself.

The Aguinaldo Academy of the Arts (AAA) announces its summer arts workshop set April 16 to June 2 at the AFP Theater Complex in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. There's no age requirement. Anyone interested to learn how to breakdown or simply shed off unwanted pounds may enroll by calling 912-6260, 912-61620 or 912-9234. The course runs twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m.

Bryan Rosal and Jojo Safra will be teaching. Manoeuvres heartthrobs Joshua Zamora and brother Jason have promised to drop by not only to coach but to demonstrate some dance moves of their own.

The Aguinaldo Academy of the Arts (AAA) is the training and development arm in the performing arts of Teatro Aguinaldo (a.k.a. AFP Theater). It is under the stewardship of (Ret.) Col. Eduardo Visperas, with (Ret.) Col. Carlos A. Mabagos as operations manager.

Aside from pop dancing with the Manoeuvres, the AAA is offering two ballet summer classes in collaboration with Ballet Manila. Ballet 1 is for children ages three to nine. The course is offered four times a week, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Ballet 2 is an intermediate class offered to those ages 13 and up with previous ballet training. The course runs for six weeks, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Both ballet classes will be under Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, with Aileen Lopez. Osias Barroso and Russian import Victor Saveliev will serve as rehearsal masters and choreographer for both classes.

AAA also offers courses in children's theater, basic acting, voice and music theory. The children's theater course is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It is handled by facilitators of the Gantimpala Theater Foundation.

The basic acting course is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 5 p.m. It will be handled by two SRO resident artists, Raymond Lauchengco and Teatro Aguinaldo's artistic director Roxanne A. Lapus.

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BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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PAGES 6&7

Toyota warns of pullout if labor dispute worsens

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

JAPANESE car giant Toyota Motors Philippines Inc. has threatened to pull out of the Philippines if it does not get a fair share from the Macapagal administration, which is hard-pressed to settle the company's ongoing labor strike at its Laguna plant.

A government source said several major Japanese companies would likely follow Toyota's lead in pulling the plug on their Philippine factories if the government shows its tolerance of rising labor activism in the country.

This would not be the first time that a multinational company packed its bags because of a militant union. Nestle was also forced to relocate some of its manufacturing operations to other countries because of union problems.

The government source said Toyota's labor problems should not be taken in isolation because its outcome could have a ripple effect on the operations of Japanese companies in the country as well as on the Philippine labor movement.

Toyota, which cited its P8-billion investments in the country and its above-industry wages and benefits, appealed to the government to go by the books and render a fair decision on the ongoing strike at its factory.

It claimed that it was justified in firing some of the striking workers because they performed poorly in their jobs and that the illegal strike was unduly affecting their daily operations. Toyota, the top-selling vehicle maker in the country, said production has already been stalled for more than a week.

However, the Department of Labor and Employment has treated the striking labor union with kid gloves for fear that other labor unions would stage similar protest actions to sympathize with their colleagues. The DOLE said it was the agency's duty to ensure that all labor rights were upheld, including the right to due process before being booted out of their jobs.

The Macapagal administration was also wary of making a firm decision on the issue until after the May elections are over because it could backfire against the People Power Coalition candidates specially if DOLE chose to stop the strike and allow Toyota to resume normal operations.

The source said Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas have been working overtime during the weekend to find a solution to the simmering crisis before it goes to a boil and cause irreparable damage to the country's image as an investment site.

Roughly a dozen Japanese companies, which were also having problems about their restive unions, have shown their sympathy for Toyota by attending these meetings last week.

The labor dispute comes at a time when vehicle sales are slumping.

A change in Malacañang's occupants has failed to rev up demand for new cars and commercial vehicles as sales dropped for the 5th straight month in February this year.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales tumbled 16 percent to 11,686 units in the first two months this year from 13,912 during the same period last year.

February sales were down 14.6 percent to 5,950 from 6,964 last year. Monthly sales have been on the slow lane since October last year and there has been no sign yet that it would shift lanes soon.

Commercial vehicle sales fell by 7.9 percent to 8,394 units in the first two months this year from 9,118 a year ago. Passenger car sales plummeted 31.3 percent to 3,292 units from January to February this year from 4,794 units during the same period last year.

Toyota maintained pole position with a 27.54-percent share of total industry turnover in the first two months with 3,219 units sold.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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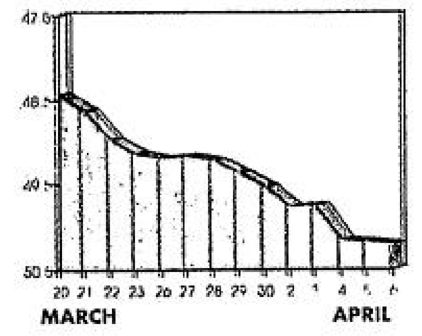


GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 50.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 6, 2001

¥ 124.78 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.78 as of 5 p.m., April 6, 2001

GOLD:$258.20/258.70 per ounce Hong Kong, April 6, 2001

STOCK MARKET

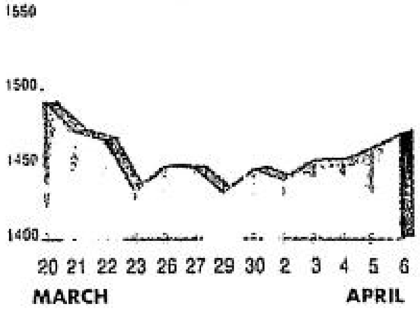
Weak trading seen

LOCAL stocks are expected to remain weak with no strong local leads and a holiday-shortened trading week.

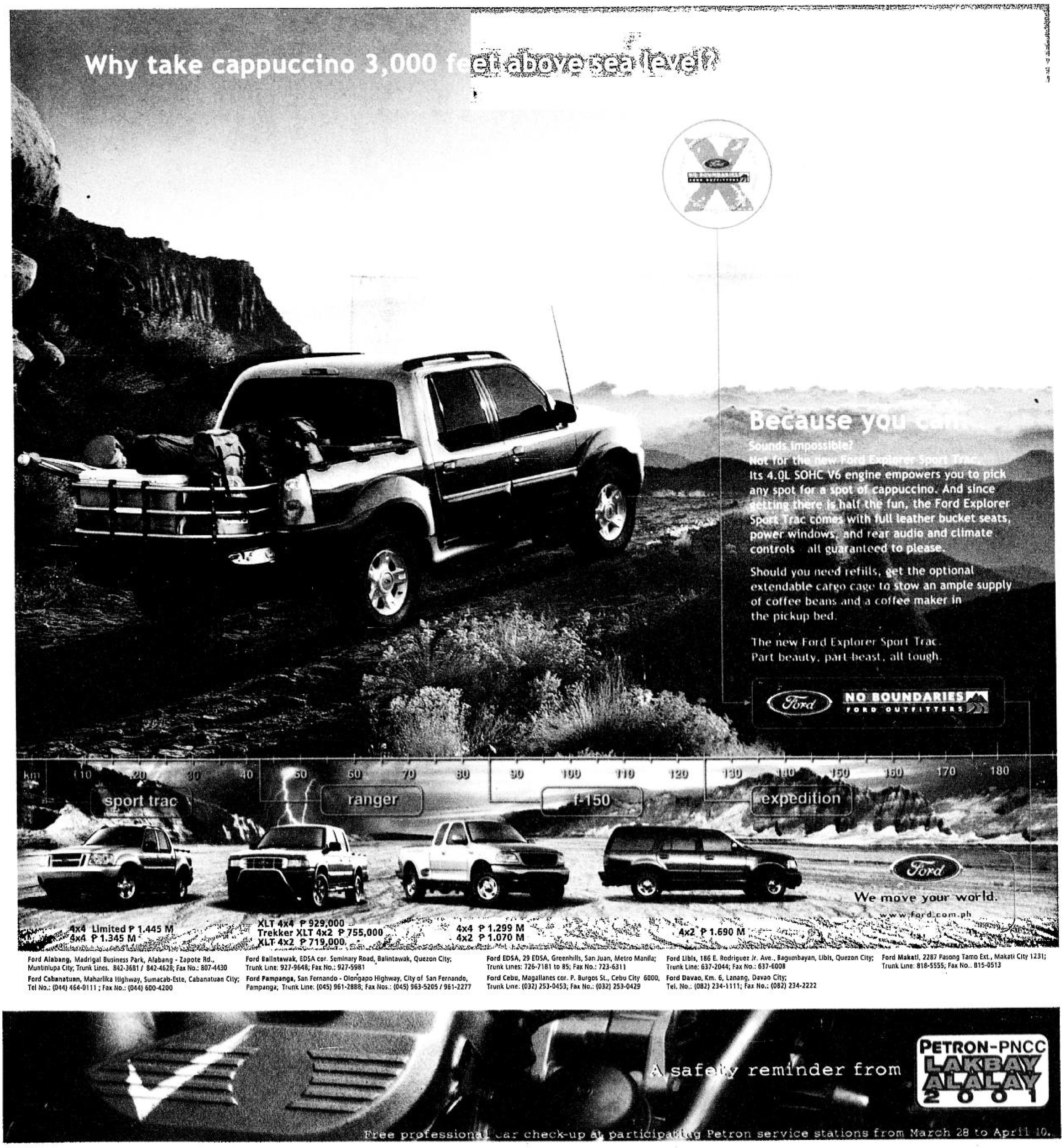
Analysts said developments in the United States would continue to drive the near term direction of the market.

Movements in the exchange rate were also expected to impact on equities over the next couple of weeks after the peso continued to weaken Friday.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)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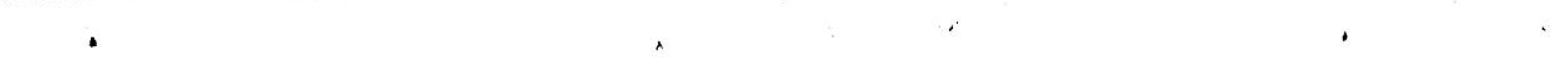

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RENEGOTIATION

NDC, Caltex expected to settle lease dispute

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Development Co. and Caltex Philippines Inc. are expected to reach a settlement soon on their protracted tussle over the American giant's lease payments on government properties after the state's private investment arm agreed to reopen negotiations and hold off legal actions.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said Caltex presented NDC with documents showing that the American company had the option to extend its lease contract on some of the government-owned properties on its own terms.

Roxas said NDC has to modify its position on the extension of the lease contract following the new evidence presented by Caltex.

"Our position then was based on a contract which stipulated that NDC has the sole option whether to extend or terminate the contract. Since there is another document showing that Caltex does have an option, we have to review our legal position," Roxas said.

NDC had earlier filed a court case in Cainta seeking to carry out its eviction notice against Caltex following the expiration of its 25-year lease contract 12 months ago. The suit was in response to a case filed by Caltex which sought for specific performance against NDC to compel the state investment arm to renew its lease contract at rates favorable to the American oil giant.

NDC wanted to peg Caltex's lease rates to current market levels or it would be forced to evict the American giant from the 28 government-owned properties and sell them for an estimated P2 billion. Caltex has only been paying a fixed annual lease rate of P744,735 for the 28 properties in the last 25 years.

Roxas has instructed NDC to review the contracts and to determine which properties were not covered by the Caltex option. "We will still collect market rates on those properties not covered by the Caltex option," said Roxas who expressed confidence that the dispute would be settled soon.

These properties were transferred in 1975 from NDC to Mobil under the Laurel-Langley agreement which forced American-owned companies to cede their properties to Filipinos. Mobil was allowed to stay on its property under a 25-year lease agreement at generous terms. The second set of lease contracts was apparently made when Caltex took over Mobil's operations in 1983.

DOE to probe 2 firms in oil smuggling

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is set to investigate allegations that two new local oil industry players are involved in oil smuggling.

Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters on Friday the energy department, as part of its investigation, would also look into the extent and possible solutions to the problem of illegal oil traffic in the country.

"We hope to work with the anti-smuggling task force President Macapagal-Arroyo is creating to address the problem of illegal oil traffic," Camacho said.

Ms Macapagal is set to commission a new anti-smuggling task force to replace the defunct Task Force Aduana.

In a recent issue, the Far Eastern Economic Review reported that "about 20,000 to 40,000 barrels of diesel, fuel oil and kerosene a day are spirited out of Indonesia in a massive smuggling operation."

The weekly magazine identified the Philippines as one of the destinations of the illegal oil supply.

Automotive diesel has a refinery-gate price of $26 a barrel in Singapore but, with government subsidies, the fuel sells at the equivalent of $10 a barrel, it reported.

"If you look at the difference in those prices, it's no surprise it's being smuggled," the magazine quoted an international finance official.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion, for his part, said the oil companies should be proactive in dealing with smuggling.

"They are the legitimate players and they are affected by these unscrupulous elements, they should police the industry," Concepcion said in an interview.

He said since the companies were present in the ports, they can identify the areas where the tankers unload.

He said the oil firms can put groups that will monitor the (entry of oil cargoes) because oil tankers are very conspicuous.

"Oil comes only on a tanker and the oil companies can easily put up monitoring groups," Concepcion said.

The gang rape of the party-list system

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IN HIS commentaries on the Constitution, Fr. Joaquin Bernas S.J., writes: The party-list system is a novelty introduced by the 1987 Constitution in order to encourage the growth of a multi-party system. Those qualified to participate in the party-list system are "registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations."

The system is an opportunity for small groups, such as the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), as genuine a party-list candidate as you will ever find, to elect members into the House of Representatives. Although registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-political corporation, PARP was forced to enter the party-list system when no one in Congress was really interested in picking up PARP's legislative agenda designed to uplift retirees.

The Constitution says that the party-list representatives will constitute "twenty per centum of the total number of representatives including those in the party list." Thus, under a total membership of 250, a fully operative party-list system would mean 200 district representatives and 50 party-list representatives.

The mechanics of the party-list system was left to Congress to legislate. But, Father Bernas says, the Constitutional Commission had a clear understanding of the rough outlines of how the system should operate. These outlines were the bases of Republic Act 7941 signed into law in March 1995.

This law sets the rules for the party-list system. Only parties or organizations standing for marginalized and underrepresented sectors were allowed to take part. To elect 50 party-list representatives, a registered party or organization wins one seat if it garners 2 percent of all the votes cast in the system nationwide, two seats if it garners 4 percent, and the maximum of three seats if it garners 6 or more percent.

Unfortunately, this formula is flawed. You do not have to be an actuary to see that this formula will never result in electing 50 party-list representatives. Assuming 10 million votes were cast in the system nationwide, for 50 candidates to win, every last one of them must garner exactly 200,000, no more, no less. If only one representative gets 200,001, there will be, at most, only 49 winners.

Nevertheless, the formula allows a good number of winners. In the first party-list elections in 1998, twelve party-list representatives won. Next month, more are expected to win as candidates gain more expertise in winning elections and more voters appreciate the value of the system.

But there is a clear and serious threat to the party-list system that will surely lead to its early death. This is the entry into the party-list system of the major political parties.

Under RA 7941, groups taking part in the party-list system engage in political combat for 20 percent of the House seats in an arena specially set for them. It is a free-for-all exclusively for flyweights. The major political parties, the heavyweights, far from being marginalized and certainly already well represented, do battle in a different arena for control of 80 percent of the House.

But, in an apparent misreading of the Constitution and RA 7941 by the Comelec, the major political parties, like Lakas/NUCD and PDP/Laban, have been allowed to enter the party-list system in next month's elections. What chances do flyweights have against heavyweights?

There are 11 major parties. They can easily win three seats each, or 33 in all. This leaves 17 seats to the 151 small parties, assuming that the 11 major parties will take no more than 66 percent of all the votes cast nationwide. But they will take more than 66 percent, which leaves nothing left for the small parties. The party-list system will be totally ravaged—gang raped at maidenhood by the major political parties.

What to do? The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) is filing a suit tomorrow. See you in the Supreme Court.

SALAZAR ON GREEN BANKING

Monetary Board Member Melito S. Salazar Jr. (extreme right) outlines the initiatives taken by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on environment protection, particularly green banking, in a recently held media forum, preparatory to the Asia-Pacific Financial Services Conference on April 6, 2001 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. With Salazar are (from left): Hanns Seidel Foundation representative Paul G. Schafer, Unep Financial Institutions Initiative on the Environment representative Paul Clements-Hunt, and lawyer Fernandino Y. Concepcion of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Shell unit plans to put up 600-mw gas-fired plant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ROYAL Dutch Shell Group subsidiary Intergen is considering putting up a 600-megawatt gas-fired power plant that will source its fuel from the Malampaya gas field.

The project is expected to further expand the market for the natural gas from the Malampaya gas field in northwest off Palawan. The field is expected to produce 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas starting June.

Project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV said Intergen has been studying the feasibility of setting up the power plant in Sucat, where an old National Power Corp. oil-fired plant scheduled for decommissioning is located.

However, Spex said the Intergen plant would be built only if the power sector restructuring law would be passed.

Spex managing director David J. Greer said the Malampaya gas would be ready for use by October this year.

Three power plants in Batangas, with an aggregate capacity of 2,700 megawatts, will use the gas which will be transported from Malampaya through a 504-kilometer sub-sea pipeline.

These are the 1,000-mw Sta. Rita power plant, the 500-mw San Lorenzo plant and 1,200-mw Ilijan plant.

Greer earlier said that aside from the three, the exploration company has also been talking to two other power firms for a possible gas supply agreement.

Greer identified the firms as Magellan Utilities Development Corp. and the San Pascual Cogeneration Co., which are planning to build a 300-mw power plant separately.

Spex said the Malampaya gas field could supply gas to power plants with power generation capacity of 3,500 to 4,500 mw.

DTI says Prosperity.com running pyramiding venture

By Doris C. Dumlao

MULTI-LEVEL marketing firm Prosperity.com is under fire from the Securities and Exchange Commission, which has secured an opinion from the Department of Trade and Industry that the company is involved in a pyramiding scheme.

The SEC, which is cracking down on perpetrators of the illegal scheme, consulted DTI Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection director Teresa Arao-Mahiwo on the facts of the Prosperity.com case without mentioning the name of the company.

After evaluating the facts of the case, Mahiwo said the case had all the elements of pyramiding prescribed under the consumers protection act.

"It is evident that the corporation adopts a binary compensation plan where a participant must invest $294 purportedly for a website subscription for one year. If the participant gets to sell website accounts to two downlines, he will receive $46 from each one as commission. If his downlines recruit their own downlines, the former will likewise get $46 from each until a total of 16 pairs are recruited," Mahiwo said.

If participants are compensated directly or indirectly merely for the introduction or enrolment of other participants into the program, Mahiwo says it is a pyramiding scheme.

"It appears that what is offered is the opportunity to purchase one or more websites (also known as business centers) and to earn commissions when they introduce more members to join the program. The availment of the benefits/profits is tied up with the act of recruitment of members who, in turn, will invest and recruit their respective downlines," she said.

The official also noted that the price of a website also raised doubts as to its real value in as much as the SEC found out the websites sold had identical layouts, clearly using the same templates for every website. It was thus stressed that every website could not have been worth $294 especially since a lot of Internet sites now offer free Web-hosting services.

Mahiwo cited a ruling by the Fair Trade Commission of the United States that viewed the identical schemes adopted by KM.Net and Bigsmart.com as a pyramiding scam. Both programs operate binary compensation plans where commissions are paid based on the sale of "malls" and websites that are nothing more than online sales ads.

"They are not paying commissions based on the sale of legitimate products and services," she said.

Mahiwo also noted that the company might be guilty of a deceptive sales act for inducing a consumer to enter into a transaction by misrepresentation.

"In a situation where a participant pays $294 for a website subscription, which is good for one year and the Web space allegedly has 15-megabyte space capacity, there arise the following issues: Is there really a product which is the subject of a transaction? Is the company able to deliver what it promises?" she asks.

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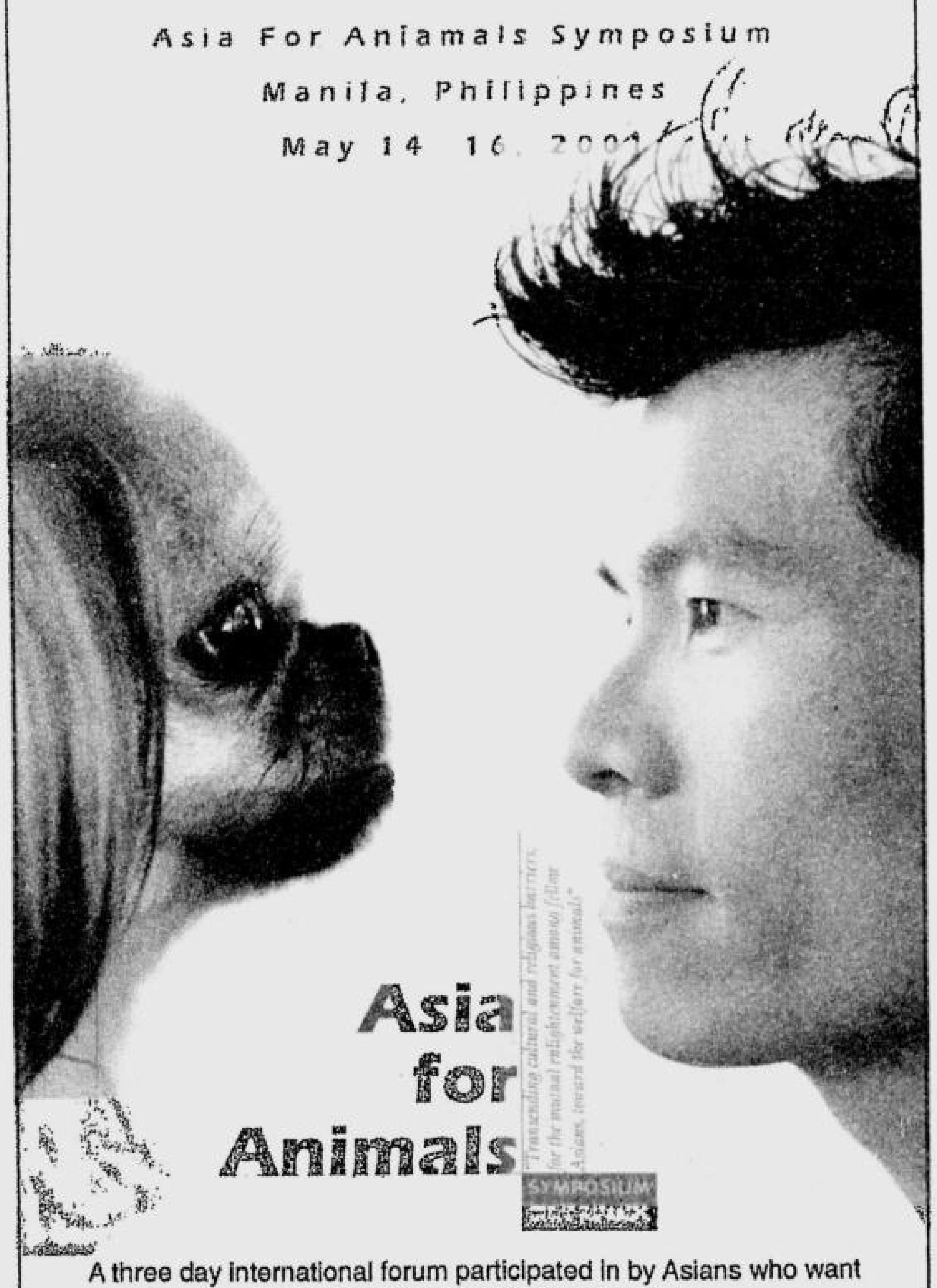

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GOINGS-ON

HSBC tops Asiamoney survey

FOR the fourth consecutive year, HSBC in the Philippines emerged as the "Best Foreign Exchange Bank in the Philippines," in the annual poll conducted by international finance magazine, Asiamoney, among treasurers, finance managers and finance directors in the Philippines.

Respondents cited the bank's competitive pricing and good quality service as the winning factors in the choice for top forex bank. HSBC led by a wide margin from Citibank and Deutsche Bank, who came in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

Asiamoney's poll showed that despite all the other "add-ons" to banks' services, pricing remains the most important criterion for selection. Speed of execution is also a factor.

Overall, HSBC regained the title of "Best Foreign Exchange Bank in Asia," after Citibank won the position in 2000 for a year. This year, HSBC is also rated No. 1 in foreign exchange in Hong Kong, Indonesia, India and Thailand.

AgriAsia's maiden issue

AGRIASIA, a monthly agribusiness magazine catering to the needs of Asian agribusiness executives, managers, and decision-makers for accurate, up-to-date and timely information, has released its maiden issue this week. It has for its cover story a closer look at Leonardo Montemayor, a farmer-leader turned legislator who was chosen by President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the Department of Agriculture.

Also in the maiden issue is a comparison of the different rice and corn programs, a discussion on the prospects of the agriculture sector this year by leading agribusiness economist Rolando Dy of the University of Asia and the Pacific, and a review of Mindanao's role by noted consultant Don Taylor.

HSBC, GOLDMAN SACHS

Slower growth seen this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

TWO foreign investment banks—HSBC and Goldman Sachs—have projected in separate studies a dismal growth for gross domestic product this year to only 1.7 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

Their GDP forecasts are only about half of the government's revised scenario of a 3.8-percent economic growth this year.

Both foreign groups said economic gains would be clipped this year by a huge cut in export growth to only 3 to 4 percent from an actual expansion of 8.7 percent in shipments last year.

The National Economic and Development Authority has also brought down its GDP growth projection to 3.8 percent from an earlier target of as much as 4.3 percent because of a foreseen slack in exports.

A slowdown in the US and Japanese economies, the country's two major trading partners, is expected to slow Philippine shipments this year.

The country's exports to US and Japan account for 45 percent of the total.

GDP growth last year stood at 3.9 percent despite a serious political crisis that eventually led to the ouster of President Estrada. GDP is the main measure of the country's economy.

"We hold a bearish outlook for Philippine exports against global economic conditions rapidly cooling, with growth of just 4 percent in 2001 against an 8.7-percent rise in 2000," HSBC said in its latest economic outlook for the Philippines.

The bank also noted that the local export sector was suffering from a decline in new investments since the Asian financial crisis.

As a proportion of GDP, HSBC said investments in exports had plunged to 17.6 percent of GDP last year, its lowest level since 1987 and significantly below the average of 23.9 percent from 1993 to 1997.

"Raising investment back to 23 percent of GDP is critical if the Philippines hopes to achieve sustainable GDP growth of 5 percent plus," HSBC said.

On fiscal management, Goldman Sachs had warned that despite a tightening in expenditures, the Macapagal administration's fiscal position could further deteriorate.

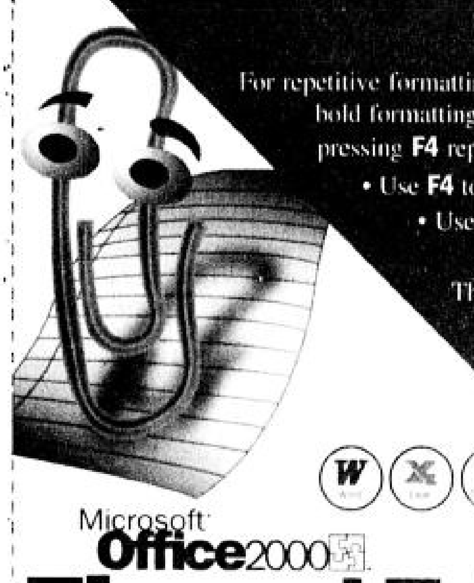
"Despite a general optimism on the new government, the fiscal situation is unlikely to alter. Given the poor revenue collection and an economic slowdown, we expect revenues to fall much faster and the election in May will likely boost fiscal spending," Goldman Sachs said in its review.

The government, however, has said repeatedly that it would contain its budget deficit this year to P145 billion or below. It added that economic growth of 3.8 percent, the lower end of its target, remained realistic.

Neda chief Dante Canlas said other drivers of the economy such as private investments, construction and real estate should help buoy the Philippine economy this year.

He said the Macapagal administration was also counting on improved investment and consumer confidence to continue propelling the economy up.

"Declining interest rates is also helping a lot," he said, noting that the 3.8-percent growth target would already incorporate the decline in exports.



Tip #4. F4 Repeats Your Most Recent Action

For repetitive formatting tasks, like adding borders, bold formatting or inserting a file or picture, pressing **F4** repeats your most recent action.
- Use **F4** to repeat a recent single action
- Use **Format Painter** for complex formatting (Tip # 5)

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BIR chief says overhaul needed at tax agency

DEATH and taxes, they say, are the only certainties in life. In the Philippines, however, only the grim reaper would appear to be a sure bet.

The country's tax agency, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), has been reviled for years for a shoddy collection record, complex procedures, and claims of corruption and a soft touch toward big business.

With the country reeling under a massive budget deficit, estimated at around P145 billion this year, the new administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has targeted a thorough makeover of the tax system to try to boost its coffers.

And among the ideas under consideration is a new and autonomous revenue agency that would effectively replace the BIR.

Entering in this highly charged atmosphere is new BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez.

The 45-year-old, who took up the job in February after a long career in the private sector and a two-year stint at the bureau in the early 1990s, admits he has a "herculean task" in overhauling the tax system.

But he rejects suggestions the BIR is largely to blame for the country's mammoth deficit problem.

"Reforms are needed not just in tax administration . . . we need reforms in the government procurement process and a review of the prioritization of government projects," in order to generate more income, he said.

The BIR has been tasked to rake in around P408 billion in 2001, up from P358 billion last year.

Despite the daunting target, Bañez said there have been some encouraging first quarter signs with the tax take from banks, insurance companies and other large taxpayers up by around 4 percent.

"If the performance of the three groupings would continue we are very hopeful that we would be able to meet our revenue goal for the year."

Acknowledging that the present tax system has major flaws, Bañez said he is now working with the government on a comprehensive program he dubs "an holistic approach" to tax reform.

It includes revamping current tax administration processes to make them simpler, more transparent, and user-friendly as well as restructuring the bureau itself.

Bañez has been named in local media reports as the chief architect behind the plan to set up a new autonomous revenue body.

While he admits the idea is part of his broad reform vision and has been discussed with the government, no details nor a timeframe have been set.

BIR/ B5

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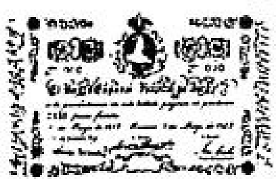
Every Monday, a series on Philippine banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?



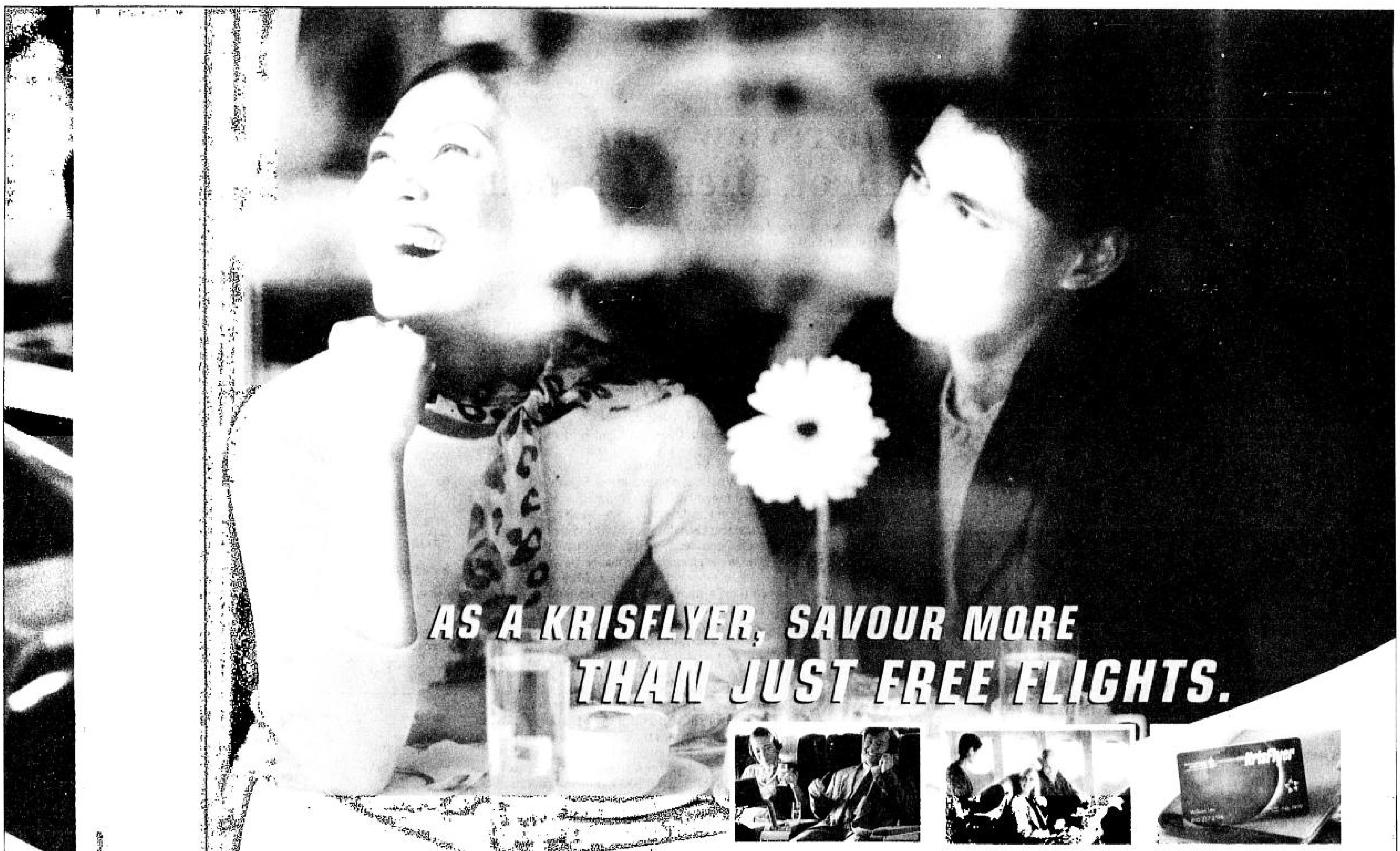
..that the first extension in the corporate life of the first bank in the Philippines, *El Banco Español Filipino* (originally named *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2*), was formalized by no less than the king of Spain in 1876?

..that the Spanish king at that time was Alfonso XII, son of former queen Isabella II, after whom the bank was named in 1851?

...that the establishment of a submarine telegraph cable connecting Luzon to the Spanish peninsula in 1880 enabled bank customers in the Philippines to start having direct contact with those in Spain, France, China, Hongkong, French Indo-China and Singapore?

..that the first direct exchange of bank drafts was made in 1881 between *El Banco Español Filipino* in the Philippine Islands and the *Banco Hispano-Colonial* in Barcelona, Spain?

150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Lackluster stock trade seen as negative sentiments persist

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

A DULL market is expected during this three-day trading week as the country takes a long break to observe Lent.

Market players are expected to stay sidelined until Wednesday and defer serious trading until after the long holidays.

"Trading is expected to taper off given the shortened trading period but activity should pick up again the following week, with investors taking their cue from the performance of US markets next week," BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said.

Yap noted that the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rebounded last week by 1.71 percent to close at 1,471.13 as bargain-hunters spurred a correction in most of the index issues.

"However, resistance remains as buyers have been reluctant to push prices higher; in addition, several major index stocks continue to be sold down. Uncertainties remain, particularly the issue of stability of US equity markets. Renewed volatility in the US markets may again cut short this rally," Yap said.

Securities Specialist president Francisco Villaroman said that once the Phisix breaks 1,515, it will drop to 1,400-1,500, but only to take another breather.

"Thus, the market is undergoing consolidation, with a high of perhaps 1,465 and a low of 1,420 or a bit below. A decent corrective rally is imminent after this consolidation, to 1,500 to 1,525. A subsequent advance to 1,590 is possible," Villaroman said.

Villaroman said the market was bound to further slide very soon to even below 1,400, then test the October 2000 low of 1,243 and then proceed to the September 1998 low of 1,076.

"We believe that the bottom will be from 900 to 1,100. All this will happen primarily because the Philippine market will be taking the cue from the US market. As we said on March 15th that the Dow support at 9,600 would break, we now say that its support at 8,900 to 9,100 will also break. If this happens, look for 7,500. Nasdaq will be at or below 1,500 as it completes a classic zig-zag wave," he said.

Web-based Philstocks.net said that aside from the Lenten season, volume of trades is also likely to be affected by the income tax filing deadline on April 16. It said this is seasonally a time where investment decreases in financial markets owing to the need for cash tax payment.

"In the short term, the market is likely to stay within its current levels with no compelling reason to move trading. We may continue to see bear-market rallies. Bargain hunting may continue in the succeeding sessions although it will be done cautiously due to the belief that the economy and earnings will remain weak for the foreseeable future," Philstocks.net said.

"But this kind of support is not expected to make much headway as any bargain buying is viewed as short-lived and trader-oriented. It's this bear psychology that's gripping the market and creating a general apathy toward taking positions. Moreover, it's extremely difficult to change this kind of psychology since the origin of the current negative sentiments lie mostly in external factors," it said.

Equitable sees ₱750-M net profit for this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third biggest lender recovering from a recent crisis, is expecting to chalk up a net income of P750 million this year or 28.6 percent lower than the unaudited profit of P1.05 billion last year.

Bank president Wilfrido Vergara said much of the projected earnings this year would depend on the timing of inflows to the bank as well as provisions it would make for bad loans.

He pointed out the unaudited net income of P1.05 billion last year has yet to take into account provisions the bank would make for bad loans. Loan growth is seen to hit about 7 percent this year.

Vergara said the bank would try to streamline operations to improve efficiency. He said this year the bank would fully benefit from the integration of the systems of Equitable and PCIBank.

The merger of the two banks on May 1999 created the industry's third largest with assets of more than P300 billion and deposits of P177 billion before it suffered from heavy withdrawals in the last quarter of 2000 until early this year.

Vergara said Equitable PCI still intends to become a regional player three to five years down the road.

Admittedly, the lender suffered a backlash after its name was dragged into the "Juetengate" scandal, prompting clients to pull out deposits ranging from P60 billion to P80 billion.

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1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1,800,000.00
2	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	750,000.00
3	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
4	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
5	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	500,000.00	-
6	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000.00	-
7	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	500,000.00	450,000.00
8	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	350,000.00
9	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
10	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	16,000,000.00	-
11	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,900,000.00	-
12	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	-	800,000.00
13	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Individual)	30,000.00	-
14	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Corporate)	50,000.00	-
15	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	800,000.00	-
16	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	-	130,000.00
17	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	95,000.00	-
18	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	240,000.00
19	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	2,100,000.00
20	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
21	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	870,000.00	-
22	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	-	175,000.00
23	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	300,000.00
24	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	10,000,000.00

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GSIS, SSS to review list of stockbrokers

STATE pension funds Social Security System and Government Service and Insurance System have promised to establish stiffer guidelines in the accreditation of stockbrokers for their market transactions.

The pension funds have received a lot of flak during the Estrada regime as they were seen to favor only a few stockbrokers, some of which were close to the ousted president.

In a speech delivered for SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas, a former PSE president, it was noted that the pension fund would follow a new set of guidelines for broker accreditation.

"This new set of guidelines contains the set of policies, procedures, criteria and requirement for broker accreditation. It also contains the guidelines for evaluating a broker's service and performance as well as guidelines for the allocation of transactions," the SSS said.

It was noted that the SSS equity portfolio currently had 24 stocks, with some having discouraging prospects.

"Clearly, there is a need to instill greater financial and technical discipline in stock selection to be able to improve the quality of the SSS equity portfolio," it said.

GSIS president Winston Garcia also noted that GSIS' equity investments would henceforth focus on stocks with sound fundamentals and strong growth potentials.

"As the Philippine economy turns to recovery and expansion, we intend to rise with it through our active participation in the stock market. We shall continue to search for undervalued issues, which have attractive upside potentials as evidenced by solid company fundamentals, rather than by make-believe market performance through manipulative and deceptive schemes," he said.

To be able to book more trading gains, he said the GSIS would be relying more on the skills and professionalism of securities analyst. One of the criteria needed to get GSIS accreditation, he said, was for a brokerage house to have a strong research team.

PSE president Ramon Garcia earlier appealed to SSS and GSIS to alter their trading scheme in order to spread out market orders to a greater number of bourse members.

Among the brokerage houses seen as highly favored during the Estrada regime as reflected in their high transaction volumes from SSS and GSIS were Wealth Securities Inc., Topwin Securities Inc., Lucky Securities Inc., All Asia Securities Management Corp., Belson Securities Inc., Eastern Securities Development Corp., Papa Securities Corp. and Guild Securities Inc.

Topwin, one of the newest brokerage houses, rose as one of the top brokers in terms of transactions owing to trading orders from the pension funds. Topwin, which has Estrada mistress Joy Melendrez as a board member, recently folded up operations.

S&P seen to review ratings for RP outlook after May polls

THE STAGE seems set for a better economic performance in the Philippines, but Standard & Poor's said it will wait for the outcome of the May congressional elections before any ratings or outlook review.

"We would like to incorporate the election results into our analysis," Joydeep Mukherji, director of S&P's sovereign ratings, told Reuters in an interview last week, when asked about the likely timing for any possible review.

On Jan. 19, S&P said the outlook on the long-term ratings for the Philippines remained negative, as it had been since Oct. 19, 2000. It affirmed the country's double-'B'-plus long-term and single-'B' short-term foreign currency sovereign credit ratings, in speculative grade.

Officials from the international ratings agency were in the Philippines last week to assess the political and economic changes since President Macapagal-Arroyo replaced disgraced leader Joseph Estrada on Jan. 20.

"The stage seems to be set for more encouraging news," said Mukherji.

"Clearly, a good team is in place and is taking time to come up with a realistic economic strategy."

But the unknown factor was how and at what pace the new government would make the changes to restore the economy battered by poor management and the recent political crisis, he said.

"How successfully can the new government stabilize the fiscal problem it has inherited and also how quickly can it start the structural reforms?" Mukherji said.

"What we want to know is how effective the government will be," Mukherji said, adding that any political developments—such as the fate of ex-President Estrada charged with corruption and economic plunder as well as the outcome of May congressional elections—would be viewed in this light.

Elections will be held on May 14 for 13 seats in the 24-member Senate, the entire 262-member House of Representatives and thousands of other provincial posts. They are seen as key for the President to consolidate her grip on power and drive reform measures through Congress.

Factors driving the current negative outlook were the country's growing budget deficit and the level of public sector debt of which about half is in foreign currency, Mukherji said. Another concern was the pending structural reforms in areas such as energy.

The Philippines budget deficit stood at P136.11 billion in 2000 and the government's target for this year is P145 billion. For 2002, Manila hopes to bring the deficit down to P120.6 billion. "Even if you do a few good things (to improve government debt), you still have to make assessment of the Philippine debt trajectory," Mukherji said.

Strong exports, the positive factor that supported the Philippines ratings from slipping further, were set to ease this year with sluggish economic growth in the United States, its major trading partner.

But if Ms Macapagal could put in place measures to attract foreign investments usually geared for the export sector, the effect may be minimized, he said.

The Philippines' balance of payments (BOP) swung to a $512-million deficit in 2000 from a $3.6-billion surplus in 1999, due to outflows in investment accounts.

Mukherji did not see the BOP deficit becoming a major risk for the country. If the trade picture was less rosy, the good news should come from the capital side, where a return of foreign investments should compensate for the fall in exports, he said. *Reuters*

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, April 6, 2001)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	805,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	3,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	127,800
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	49.5	49.5	8,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	80	80	80	80	875,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	215	215	210	211	150,030
Philippine National Bank	46	46.5	46	46	17,800
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	19	19.25	37,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.5	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1210	1195	1195	1,520
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	960	930	960	9,960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	44	44	44	44	16,100
Diversified Fin. Network	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.49	3,190,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	655	655	655	2,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	715	710	710	135,900
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.043	105,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	44	45	43	43.5	368,700
Manila Electric Co. B	59	60	58	58	1,775,800
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	1,548,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.96	0.92	0.96	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	1,499,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	500,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	530,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	7,082,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	190,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	280,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	46.5	45	46.5	68,400
San Miguel Corp. B	50	52.5	50	51.5	655,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	2,496,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	2,937,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	4,600
A. Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.14	2.16	1.98	2	8,770,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	290,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	1,190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.06	1,920,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23	23.25	23	23.25	125,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	1,630,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	15,600
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	90,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	4,682,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	420,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	540,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	450,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,030,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.27	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	3,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	20,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	310,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	14,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	8,540,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.48	0.51	1,240,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	44.5	44.5	44	44	373,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	24,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	690	690	690	400
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	12	11.75	12	53,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	3,320,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	220,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	860,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.06	1.98	2	13,973,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	230,000
SM Development Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7	13,353,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	130,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	37,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.18	2,570,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,149,610	128,782,900.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	184,429,800	440,035,025.00
PRO	32,626,000	142,612,000.00
Mining	39,930,000	641,250.00
OIL	17,110,000	610,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	276,245,410	712,681,775.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	595.30	DOWN 3.39
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,988.16	UP 25.57
PRO	577.75	DOWN 2.47
Mining	1,090.40	DOWN 10.82
OIL	1.51	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	729.26	UP 6.89
Composite	1,471.13	UP 10.46

NO. OF ADVANCES: 39; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 2,516

CURRENCIES

April 6, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115698	1.000000	50.1820
Japan	Yen	0.008985	0.008053	0.4041
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593217	1.428000	71.6599
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143067	0.128231	6.4349
Switzerland	Franc	0.654560	0.586682	29.4409
Canada	Dollar	0.709190	0.635647	31.8980
Singapore	Dollar	0.617226	0.553220	27.7617
Australia	Dollar	0.545574	0.488998	24.5389
Bahrain	Dinar	2.959568	2.652661	133.1158
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297487	0.266638	13.3804
Brunei	Dollar	0.613155	0.549571	27.5786
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000094	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024623	0.022070	1.1075
UAE	Dirham	0.303773	0.272272	13.6632
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.000742	0.0372
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896300	44.9781
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458271	22.9970
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136640	6.8569
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.406723	20.4102
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065137	3.2687
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022219	1.1150
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000463	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150747	7.5648
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004471	0.2244
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005387	0.2703
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022219	1.1150
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.138066	57.1104

Good intentions

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

IT IS tough to be so psychotic about something like the stock market. One moment the birds are signing, the sun is shining, and all is right with the world. That is when I look at the internal fundamentals of many companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. Then I look at the technical indicators and chart patterns. Dante's Seventh Level of Hell could not be as bad.

In the short term, there is a possibility that the market will continue to hold at 1,350. Nevertheless, even if it does, there is little confidence because some "external" event may trigger a psychological reason to move lower and fill the trading gap at about 1,270.

Then there is "The Phisix and the Dow Jones." It sounds like a Disney cartoon movie starring Lea Salonga as the heroine. All the talk about the Dow Jones looking better than before is not comforting.

Statistically it is always a fifty-fifty proposition that our market will follow New York. I did the numbers for 2001..If the Dow is up, it is exactly 50-percent chance that we will follow. However, if New York is down, 70 percent of the time we will drop also. So, if the Dow recovers, it is statistically unlikely that the Phisix will rally significantly. By the way, I did find one exchange that has a high correlation to the Phisix. Here the accuracy is almost 80 percent both up and down.

But you want to know something interesting? Of the 215 actively traded common stocks on the Philippine Stock Exchange, 36 issues are up at least 20 percent this year. If you look only at the Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index of 30 stocks, 12 have increased by more than 10 percent since Jan. 1, 2001. In fact, had you bought an equal peso amount of all the stocks in the Phisix, you total return right now would be 6 percent. That averages out to an annual return of 24 percent, which is certainly good given the treasury bill interest rates.

I looked at the earnings numbers of those Phisix companies for year 2000. What I found amazed me. I was amazed that even with the first quarter of 2001 finished, so many multibillion-peso corporations have yet to report for year 2000. It rather makes me wonder how these same companies can give projections for 2001, when they haven't figured out what they did in year 2000.

The problem is that the stocks that have performed the best in the market have little to offer in the way of numbers to justify the price increase. That is very disturbing. If I can say that I like the internal fundamentals of many firms, then why is it that the "dogs" are the ones showing the biggest profit?

It has to do with the amount of trading volume. Most shares rose dramatically with the change of government. Even then, there was not much volume.

Prices advanced because the small amount of buying volume was met with an even smaller amount of selling interest. In a "thin" market, prices can advance quickly. It must be remembered that these purchases (and lack of selling) were made in a spate of emotional rather than economic euphoria. Moreover, it is hard to take a loss when your original decision was made with your heart and not necessarily your brain.

Of course, prices can drop heavily in thin markets also. That is what has happened to the Nasdaq over the last months. Some selling pressure was matched with very little buying. Prices fell, prompting more selling and then even less buying. And that could happen here.

The question however, is not so much what might cause a selling "panic" to occur. The more important question is what is going to prevent it from happening.

Although vitally important, corruption and public officials' accountability is not the core of our problem. Korea jailed two presidents and have yet to put the economy back on track as witnessed by their stock market performance. The president cannot talk about a level playing field for investment when another government official says that every time a foreigner sets up a business here, they compete against Filipinos. As far as foreign investment is concerned, we have yet to hear a definite plan for what specific sector of our economy we need to attract foreign money.

There are so many other questions that need to be addressed also.

The peso could get out of control far too easily. The Singapore dollar is at a five year low. The Aussie is at an historic low. Taiwan and the Indian Rupee will soon be at historic lows. There has yet to be any public discussion of exactly what the government might do if regional currencies fall even further. Do we use foreign reserves to set up a forward market for importers? Do we adjust to a two-tier exchange rate? Are we going to encourage local raw material content or continue a free-for-all of importation?

What does the government intend to do if a weather problem cuts food production? Do we rely on Thailand again to supply our rice needs?

International lenders and aid donors are getting fed up with our under-utilization of funds they provide. In the current economic climate of a potential worldwide slowdown, what steps is the government taking to insure previously allocated foreign money is ever going to be used for the projects that they were intended? If foreign assistance dries up, the budget deficit will grow even larger.

Everyone seems be waiting to see if "good" is going to triumph over "evil" during the election. But that is not the only point. I am reminded that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Good intentions are not going to get this economy to the growth level that we need.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 TO 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

BIR chief . . .

(From page B3)

"We made a presentation to the finance secretary and some undersecretaries and we thought that some of them liked the proposal."

Bañez remains convinced that a tax agency with autonomy, akin to the central bank, remains the best option for creating an effective tax system.

"Look at the experience of other tax jurisdictions . . . when they have converted their revenue agency into an independent revenue authority there is a tremendous improvement in terms of revenue collection."

Removing the taint of corruption from the agency is another one of his key goals and he will be seeking to build up a more professional workforce which was likely to require higher salary levels.

But he stressed better pay was only part of the remedy for dishonest practices.

"You cannot simply address graft and corruption by increasing salaries . . . it is not the solution but it is part of the solution." ***Reuters***

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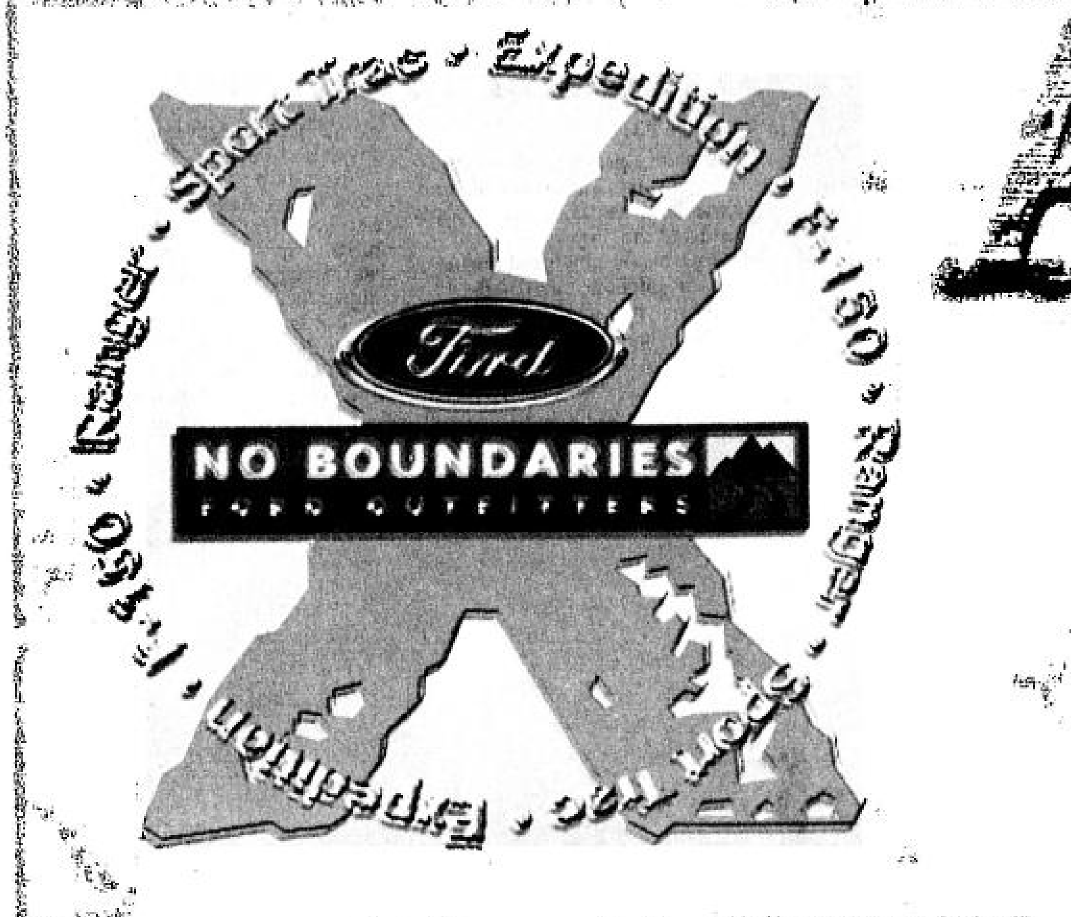
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And then we swerved right to the megadike...

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I stood on a place called Watchpoint 5, a dry expanse of one of the main river tributaries originating from Mount Pinatubo—the Sacobia River. The lahar bed on the spot where I stood spread out as much as half a kilometer wide. The valley walls rose up almost a hundred feet. It was midday of the first day of April. This would have been a rampaging river of mud and boulders during the typhoon season.

Not today. Not in the beginning of summer. Today it was El Nino's playground. Today I stood on the moon at noon. The river was now powder dry, wind blown and rocky. My shoe prints ran along the tire tracks made by the truck that took me here in the middle of a blue-and-white nowhere.

The white Ford Explorer Sport Trac almost blended in with the lahar, if not for the black tires betraying its presence. I wasn't alone. Like bison grazing in African plains, a herd of other Sport Tracs, Expeditions, F-150s, and Rangers positioned themselves into a neat line at the very middle of the Sacobia riverbed, kicking up dust as they maneuvered..

It was a scene from Mad Max. I was Mel Gibson surveying my army of the future in a desolate, post-nuclear wasteland. And when I kneeled down, palmed a handful of dry lahar and rubbed it between my hands, I was gladiator Russell Crowe reckoning my fate before a public carnage.

We had just been through the climax of the first Ford Outfitter's Run—a mad dash through the widest expanses of lahar land. We had stopped to gather the posse, let out some relieved whoops and "yeahs!" and pat our backs, and our trucks, with the rest of the Ford 4x4 owners. For most of these Ford 4x4 owners, it would be the first time they brought their trucks for some true off-roading. I did not have a Ford truck. I hadn't driven a 4x4 off the road before. I was here on an invitation. I was used to city driving. I had been confined to cement, asphalt, and sidewalks all my driving life.

Now I was in a "highway" of lahar, mud, and rock as wide as four EDSAs placed side by side. There were no nosy blue-uniformed highway troopers to pull us over for speeding. There were no "one way" signs. I could do anything with the Sport Trac.

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So here we were: drivers, passengers, Ford trucks, the dry riverbed. These were the elements the Ford Outfitters Run put together in perfect conjunction. It happened the first week of April.

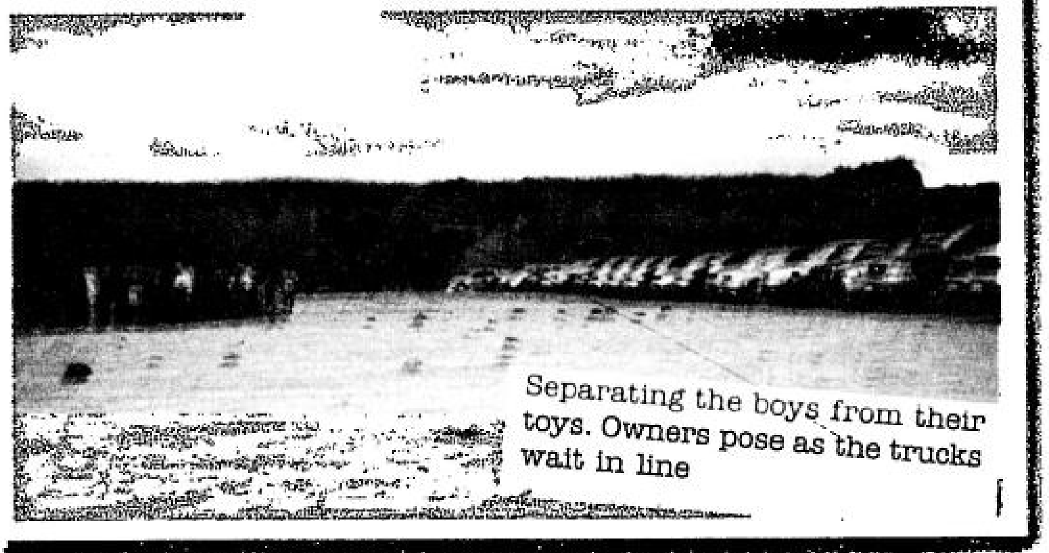
It will happen again, on April 22, and many more times after that.

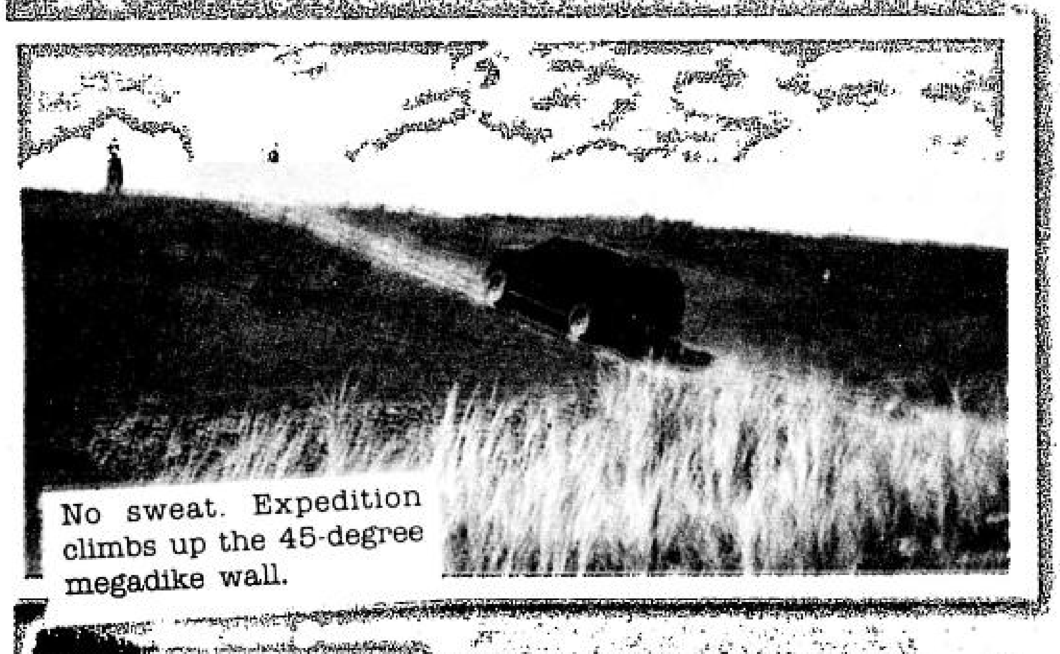
Ford 4x4 owners thinking they can keep their trucks from their natural habitat, wait for the next Ford mailers. The urge to romp where no roads exist grows on you until it overpowers you.

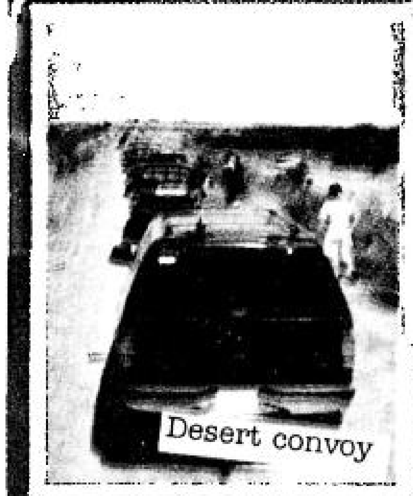
We assumed the earth was flat. We thought life just ran in neat little circles. I thought the drive ended where the pavement ran out. I was wrong.

The drive started when we swerved right to the megadike, away from the congested national road.

The next Run is on April 22. For reservations/ confirmations call 867-9099.


Separating the boys from their toys. Owners pose as the trucks wait in line


No sweat. Expedition climbs up the 45-degree megadike wall.


Desert convoy

Proud poses. Fearless crossings

The drive was just as fun at the back seat

AFTER Mount Pinatubo spewed its tons of ashes that reshaped Pampanga, the province since then has become a mecca for adventure seekers. The lahar landscape offers a different type of terrain that is definitely attractive to hikers and off-roaders.

A week ago, I was among those invited to join an off-road excursion sponsored by Ford Group Philippines—not as a driver but as a backseat spectator and photographer for the journey. Being a back seat passenger was worth it.

Being a first timer to this sort of activity, I didn't really know what to expect. Would it be like a Moab Desert trip I see on ESPN? Then I saw the participants on their best Ford 4x4s—Expeditions, F-150s, Rangers and Sport Tracs. Surely they wouldn't dare play daredevils on their beautiful trucks on this trip. Or would they?

I strapped myself at the back of the Sport Trac just behind the driver so I would at least get a driver's view of the journey. Ford people carefully set out the route to make sure the trip wasn't the suspension-shattering, truck-overturning type of off-roading that we would usually see in TV. After all, most participants were Ford truck owners who had no previous experience in off-roading.

You could very well feel the participants' concern for their vehicles. I guess the closest off-road encounter they would have experienced was driving their trucks over Metro Manila potholes.

For someone who was traveling on lahar the first time, it was definitely a wild experience. The sandy landscape of the Pasig Potrero River features a constantly shifting terrain. You would have to watch where you were going because a rock-solid ground could lead to a quicksand.

We drove from San Fernando to Bacolor where the wide expanse of lahar awaited us. Once we were there, Ford allowed the participants to get a feel the landscape—in other words experience what a 4x4 was really made for. Looking at what was unfolding before me brought to mind Jared-Syn as he awaited Mad Max in mortal combat.

Luckily these trucks weren't equipped with spikes and spear-throwing catapults. Just the same I was amazed how the Explorer could really go head to head with the other 4x4s. After ascending and descending 40-degree inclines, cross creeks, and race on lahar, the half-day tr worth it.

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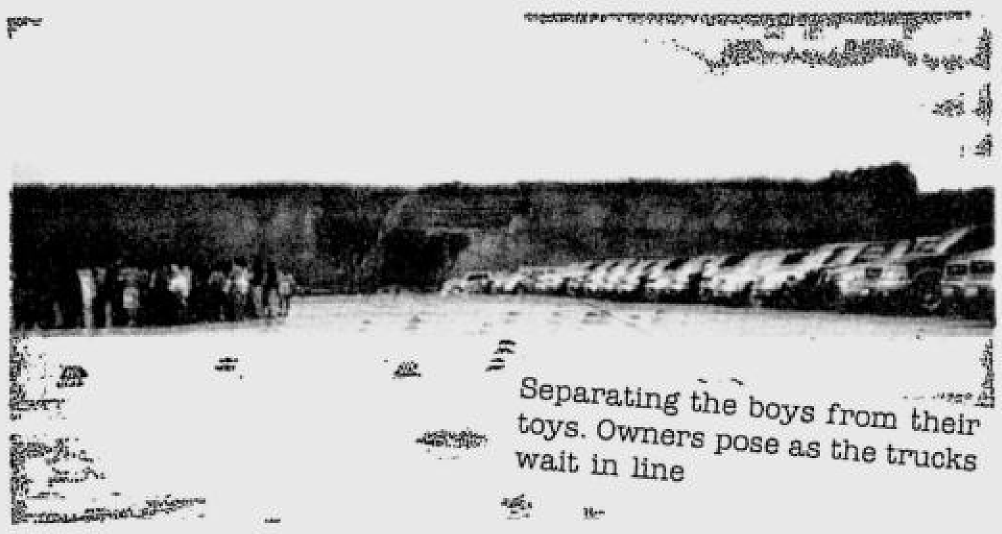
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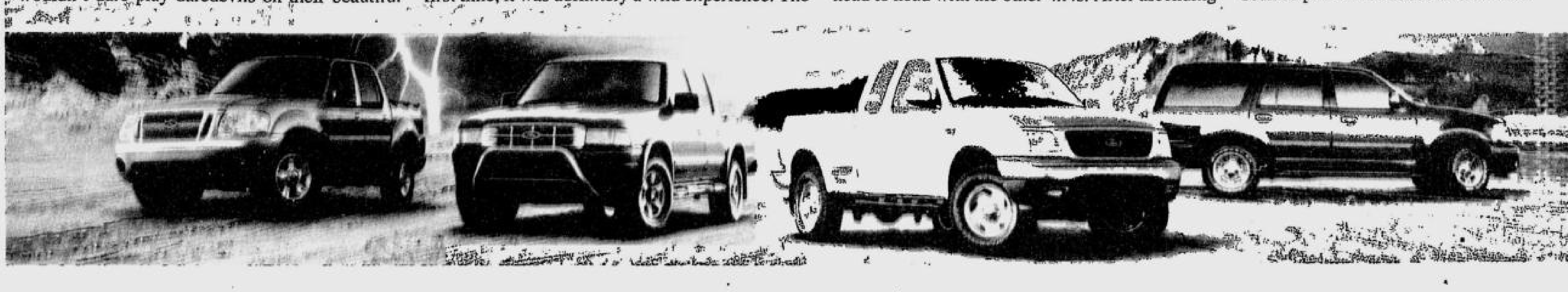

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Go out and Run!

Wet and wild

FAIZ Sheik's voice boomed inside Max's Restaurant in San Fernando, Pampanga, minutes before the first Ford Outfitters Run started. "In a short while, you will experience what your trucks are really capable of," the AVP for Brand and Marketing Communications of Ford said.

Indeed, the 4-hour trek showed Ford owners they purchased more than the muscular looks and the reputation of one of the world's toughest vehicles. On the dusty ridge of the megadike, down to the riverbed itself, drivers had the chance to test the 4x4 capabilities of these 4.0 and 4.6-liter behemoths.

"Don't be afraid of the terrain," Faiz enthusiastically reminded the group. "Your trucks can take it."

They listened. Once the Run marshals held up the red flag—signalling drivers to shift to "4WD High"—speed meters shot up like catapults. On the "freestyle" riverbed dash where Ford guides essentially instructed the owners to "go for it whichever way they pleased," some of the more daring F-150 owners did 180-degree and 360-degree turns. Others simply raced their Expeditions to 80 kph—on dusty, rock-riddled lahar. Going back up the megadike, Ford trucks climbed the 45-degree incline with ease.

By the end of the run, as the owners settled in for lunch at Clark, their smiles were evidence of a new lifestyle opened to them by Ford. "We want to make it clear that the purchase of a Ford marks the beginning of a new lifestyle," Faiz stresses. He adds that the Ford Outfitters Run provides owners a venue for their off-roading pursuits in an organized and safe manner.

Ford owners who are inexperienced in the skills and techniques of off-roading wouldn't dare do it alone. Ford Group Philippines had devised the Ford Outfitters Run precisely to gather Ford 4x4 owners and put them under the guidance of trained off-roaders (in this Run, the guides came from the Off-Road Ware Club of Pampanga, their expertise, winches and their hardy Ford Ranger Pinatubo 4x4s in tow).

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SHELL FLEET PLUS.

SHELL FUELS THE RUN

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The caravan heads for home

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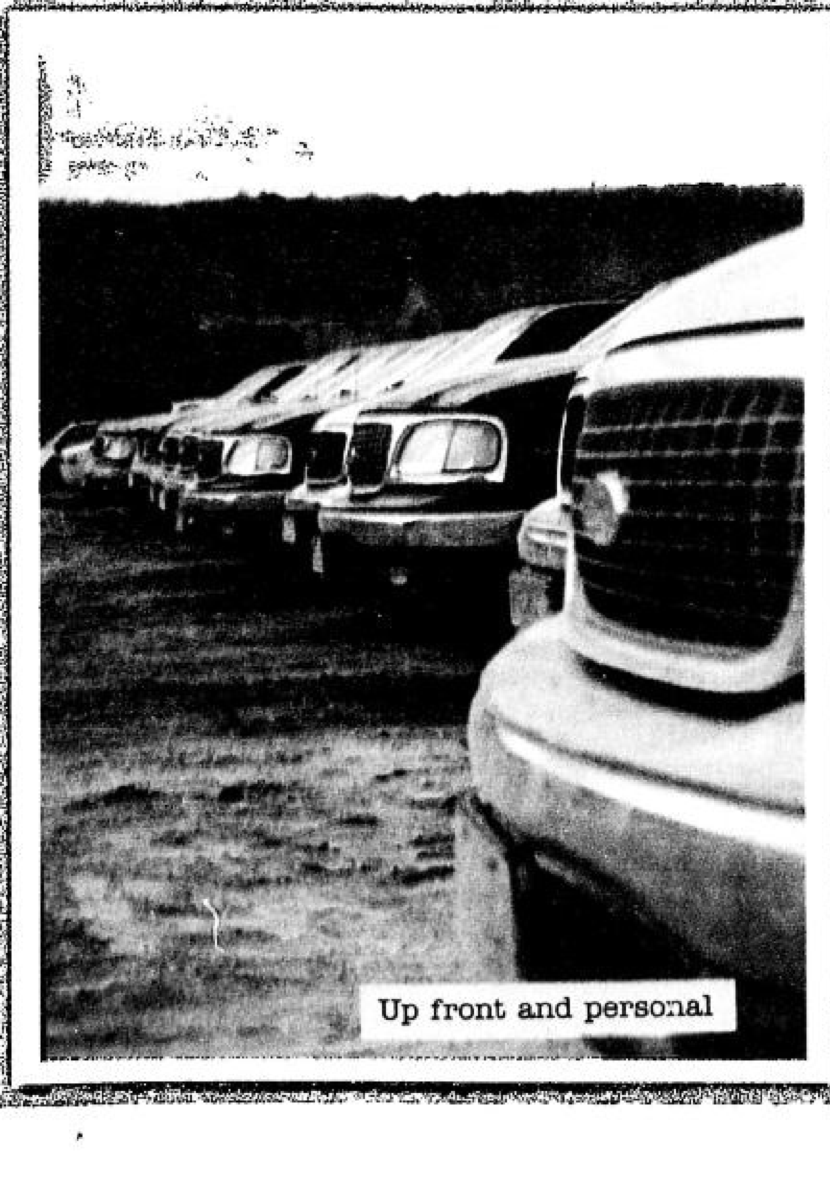

Up front and personal

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John Spakowski on an Explorer Sport Trac

"The most exciting thing was really learning what my vehicle can do. It's the first time I've owned a truck. I just didn't realize that it could do the off-road terrain with ease. The Outfitters Run was done by a very professional group. I felt safe. We were very organized, and in so short a time were trained on how to use 4WD shifts.

"I was going so slow in the beginning because I didn't want to damage the car. But after a while I said 'My God, this is what it's all about.' So I went ahead.

Henry Bongabong on an Expedition

"I didn't realize that I could still drive it smoothly, with all these rocks and the kind of terrain. I thought the Expedition was only for smooth driving. I would have been too cautious about this if I were to do this alone. You never know if there were some soft spots on the track. The most challenging thing was going up the 45-degree megadike wall. You start slipping a bit, but you keep going.

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"I guess this would be a regular part of my lifestyle. I'm looking forward to the next one."

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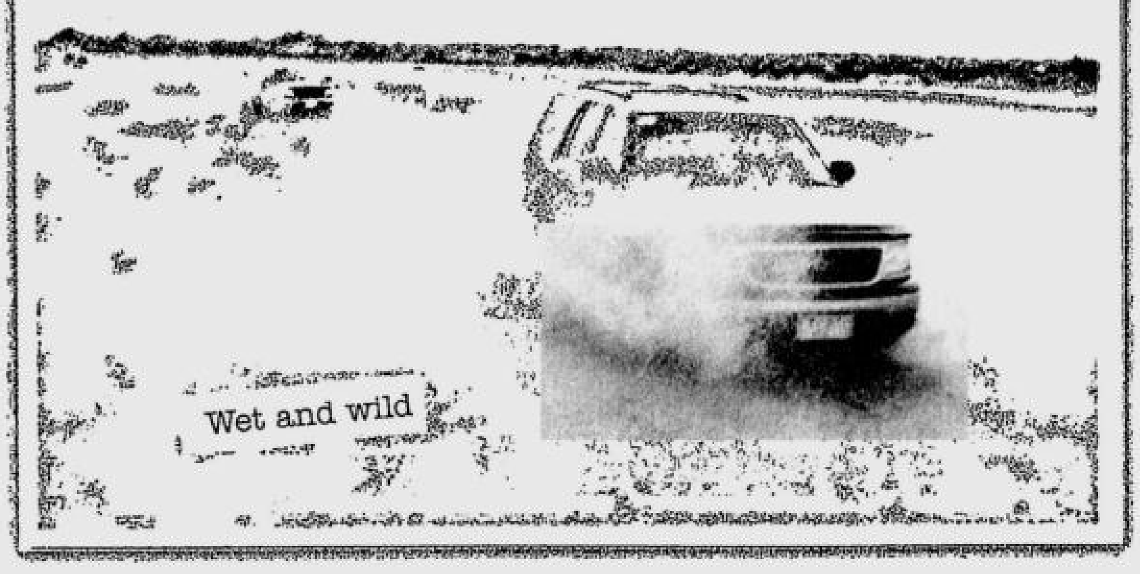
Illustrations: From Charles Buban's fotos and from Outfitter's Run brochure.

d photos by
B. ESPINOSA
ARLES BUBAN.
e by FORD.

Go out and Run!



Wet and wild

The white Ford Explorer Sport Trac almost blended in with the lahar, if not for the black tires betraying its presence

FAIZ Sheik's voice boomed inside Max's Restaurant in San Fernando, Pampanga, minutes before the first Ford Outfitters Run started. "In a short while, you will experience what your trucks are really capable of," the AVP for Brand and Marketing Communications of Ford said.

Indeed, the 4-hour trek showed Ford owners they purchased more than the muscular looks and the reputation of one of the world's toughest vehicles. On the dusty ridge of the megadike, down to the riverbed itself, drivers had the chance to test the 4x4 capabilities of these 4.0 and 4.6-liter behemoths.

"Don't be afraid of the terrain," Faiz enthusiastically reminded the group. "Your trucks can take it."

They listened. Once the Run marshals held up the red flag—signalling drivers to shift to "4WD High"—speed meters shot up like catapults. On the "freestyle" riverbed dash where Ford guides essentially instructed the owners to "go for it whichever way they pleased," some of the more daring F-150 owners did 180-degree and 360-degree turns. Others simply raced their Expeditions to 80 kph—on dusty, rock-riddled lahar. Going back up the megadike, Ford trucks climbed the 45-degree incline with ease.

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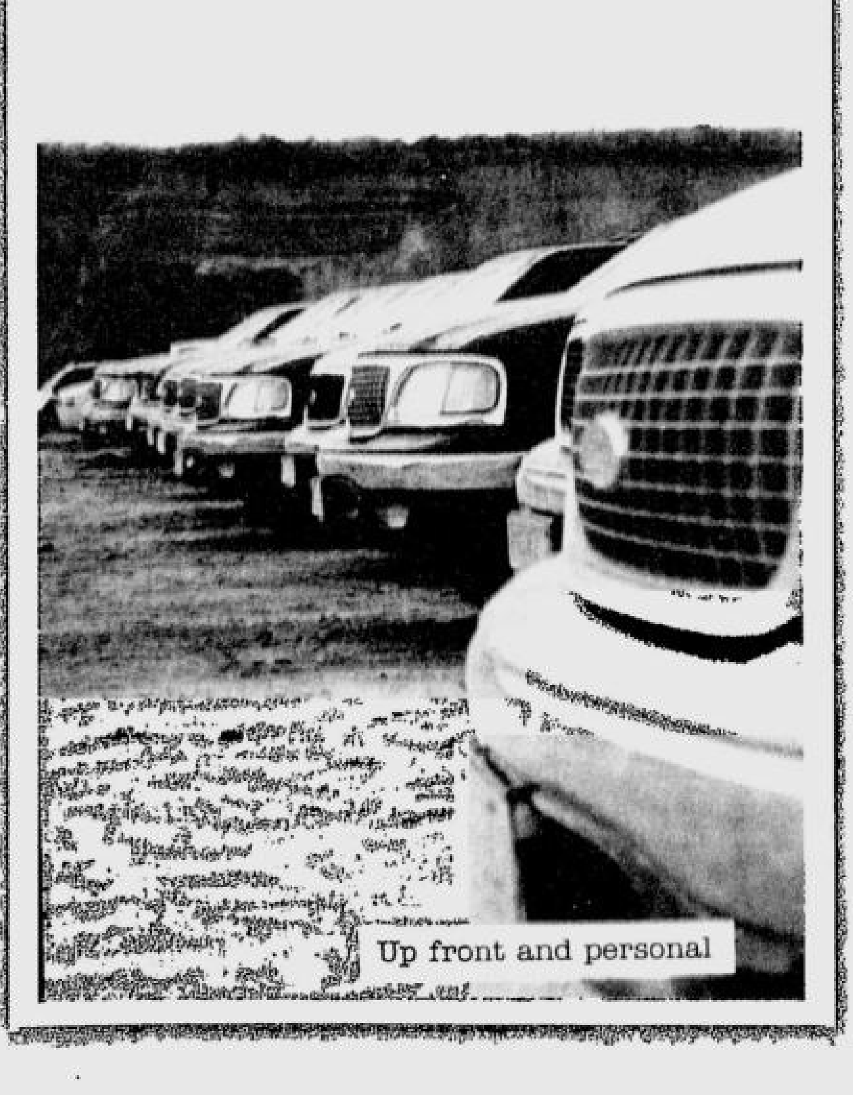

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People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Lifetime savings on Fusion's bundled services

AS THE COUNTRY'S major telecommunication companies jump on the convergence bandwagon, it is the Lopez Group's "Fusion" that is attracting a majority of the market in Metro Manila.

Fusion would be the first to make the concept of convergence a reality for Filipino consumers, as it boasts the full advantage of the bundled services of its telephone (BayanTel), Internet (Sky Internet), cable Internet (ZPDee) and cable TV (SkyCable) facilities. Ramon Antonio L. Pineda, vice president of Integrated Broadband Services (IBS), said, "It's the tangible benefits of savings and convenience that make Fusion the service provider of choice."

Positioned as "the one richer source to a wider world of opportunities," Fusion further defines its advantages as one application, one customer service number, one installation and service team, and common payment centers for all services and the best rates. It can offer as much as 76-percent savings on initial charges, amounting to P8,800 for customers who avail of the premium bundle.

Added to that is the monthly discount of 30 percent equivalent to a savings of P1,230 which the customer continues to enjoy for a lifetime or for as long as he remains a subscriber. Even bigger savings can be availed of in the quarterly, semi-annual and annual plans for bundles with SkyCable and Sky Internet.

Rodrigo P. Montinola, VP for IBS converged services claims, "Fusion is still the only package of services of its kind available here. More and more families and businessmen are recognizing the need for the synergy of new technology in the home and work environment. People now accept that if you want to maximize your potential for creativity and productivity, you need this and the fact that we can offer it at significantly discounted rates is what makes it so attractive to the market."

Montinola added that their sales and marketing teams are now embarking on village tours and office-selling campaigns "to maximize awareness of Fusion's unparalleled values in terms of savings and convenience." A "Fusion Village Tour" was held at the Acropolis Greens clubhouse April 1 for residents of Acropolis Greens, Valle Verde 6, Green Meadow, White Plains and St. Ignatius in the Quezon City and Pasig areas.

Outside of Metro Manila, Fusion should soon be available in key cities by the second half of 2001.

1ST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND
INDUCTION

PANA NEW MEMBERS

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) inducted new regular members during its first general membership meeting held at The Manila Hotel recently. Pana president Angelica P. Suiza of Golden ABC, Inc. (Penshoppe) inducted the new members and was welcomed by Pana officers and board of directors. Photo shows, (from left) Suiza, Arthur Palileo of ADP Industries, Dr. Benjamin Ovejera of Agribrands, Greg Poblador of Direct Link Insurance, Patricia Ann Cruz of Robinson's and Ronnie German of Monterey Foods Corporation.

INFOSERVE, MICROSOFT MEETING

Infoserve International Inc. chair and CEO Zoilo Jesus dela Cruz III (fourth from left) shakes hands with Microsoft Philippines general manager Richard Francis during a recent luncheon meeting at the New World Hotel in Makati City. Also shown are (from left) Infoserve International executive vice president of international marketing Carlos Pacca De Almeida; Microsoft Philippines director for partner business group Edwin Boon; and Infoserve International chief operating officer George Lissandrello. Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. Infoserve is an integrated banking software developer and supplier, and is placing its complete line of Microsoft-dedicated banking systems applications at the core of a sweeping strategy blueprint.

Splash Island opens with old favorites, new attractions

SPLASH Island has just opened. The popular water theme park in the country opened March 30, 2001 promising an even better, more "magical waterworld" experience for the whole family this summer.

Splash Island, the country's biggest water and recreational park at Southwoods Ecocentrum in Binan, Laguna, is 30 minutes away from Metro Manila. Once you're in Splash Island, however, you're guaranteed you wouldn't feel like you were just in the outskirts of the city.

The water slides provide a one-of-a-kind adventure. Slide in and let the group enjoy the Rio Montanosa high river raft ride. Or twirl at the giant twisters of Dos Supremos and King Pilipit. Plunge down Magellan's Drop. Swirl along the turns of the Twisted Palms and Tausug Trails. The Big Bam Boo provides the most exciting covered tunnel ride. The big waves of the Agos Grandes are thrilling. For an idle river ride, try raft floating along the Balsa River. Or slowly glide along Isla Pawikan, the islet located at the center of Balsa River.

Camp Carambola awaits the little ones with the kiddie versions of the rides: a river adventure at the Bannakita; Twin Coco Knots for safe but exciting curves; the Curl of the Orient water loops; an interactive pool at the Water Wahoo; the Boon Docks provide a fun-filled wilderness trek.

The fun goes on out of the water. Sweat it out at The Harbor's volleyball court. Explore Gift Galleon and Gift Shops for souvenirs, trinkets, water gears and more. Win points at the video arcade.

Several booths provide a varied array of food and refreshment, from light snack to full meals.

Splash Island is fun, and safe, as the Ellis & Associates Water Consultants train all life guards extensively. For inquiries call 928-0507 or 410-8100.

Cebu Plaza Hotel's summer splash

THE IDYLLIC life and easy living best describes the summer months in the Philippines. And Cebu, blessed with a leisurely urban lifestyle and sun-kissed beaches, has become a favorite summer destination.

Cebu Plaza Hotel's "Summer Splash," an attractive holiday package, puts together all the perks vacationers look for. For P2,500 ++ per person, enjoy twin sharing accommodations in a superior room for two nights with daily buffet breakfast, airport transfers, a day at Costabella Tropical Beach Hotel in Mactan Island inclusive of transfers to and from the beach resort, sumptuous lunch and the use of its facilities, P500 worth of the traditional "pasalubong" or giveaway items for family and friends, P2,000 worth of gift certificate for shopping in any Cebu City's great shopping malls. The Summer Splash Package is valid for local and foreign residents until June 31.

For reservations, call the following numbers: in Cebu – (032) 231-1231 or (032) 231-1211 or fax (032) 231-2071; in Manila – (02) 634-7505 to 08 or fax (02) 634-7509 or email reservation@cebuplazahotel.com or your favorite travel agent.

PERFORMANCE AWARDEE

Compaq Computer Philippines, Inc. recognizes Integrated Computer Systems, Inc. (ICS) in the recently held Partner Kick-Off at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. ICS received the awards for the highest volume sales for both Deskpro/Commercial PCs and Armada/Commercial Portables in recognition of its exemplary sales performance in terms of NUBs and revenue. ICS was also cited the dealer of the year for industry standard server for achieving the highest sales volume and largest revenue for Compaq ProLiant servers. Shown in photo are (from left) Nilo S. Cruz, Compaq president and managing director; Wilson Lim, vice president, ICS; Tess Rigor, product manager, ICS; Mary Ngo, sales manager, ICS; and Teddy D. Tiu, Compaq director for commercial business unit.

Sentricon hotline answers termite problems

EVER noticed winged pests swarming near your light fixtures and vents? Distressed by sagging floors and a crumbling kitchen? Crying over a gnawed-through Ang Kiukok artwork? Stop the termite destruction or prevent it from ever occurring—call 867-9191, the Sentricon System Hotline is now here.

Research shows that one out of two houses is a target for termites. Very likely, your house has not been spared. With the entry of the revolutionary Sentricon System from Dow AgroSciences, you can receive the best possible structural protection for your home and properties.

The Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System takes advantage of the natural behavior of termites. An authorized pest control professional installs Sentricon monitoring devices in the soil around your house, checking these regularly for signs of termite activity. Once the termites begin to feed in the stations, the Sentricon technician replaces the monitoring unit with a Baitube device that contains termite bait. The foraging termites unsuspectingly summon their nestmates to the site by leaving a scent trail leading back to the bait. The insect growth regulator prevents them from molting so they are unable to grow, causing them to die. Once the entire colony is eliminated, Sentricon System technicians will continue monitoring the devices in and around your property to prevent future termite house visits.

For peace of mind now and for the future, get the same phenomenal termite treatment that protects the thousands of Filipino homes today. Call the Sentricon System Hotline today.

EASTERN TELECOMS RAFFLE WINNER

Customer relations supervisor Rizalangela Reyes hands over to Mary Grace Alvarez and family the certificate worth 3000 credit points for being the residential winner of the "We Value Your Opinion" raffle held recently at the Etpi head office. We Value Survey raffle is one of the projects of Eastern Telecoms Quality Service under the customer service department with the aim of getting feedback from randomly selected residential and business customers regarding service delivery, application, billing and customer satisfaction. The survey is expected to further boost the customer service efforts of Eastern Telecoms. Assisting Reyes are Happy Dimaapi (right) and George Briñas (left), both Etpi service quality analysts. Eastern Telecoms is the leading provider of Internet and data communications services and offers Access landline services in Manila and Caloocan.

TOWER AWARDS CONTRACT SIGNING

Rotary Club of Manila president Sebastian B. Arrastia, (third from left, recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Ernie R. Evasco (second from right), president of FSRoman & Associates, Inc., to handle RCM's Tower (Ten Outstanding Workers of the Republic) Awards 2001 public relations and marketing PR requirements. Also in photo are (from left) Eduardo E. Tumangan, incoming RCM president for 2001 and director-in-charge, vocational service group; Gert A. Gust, chair of Tower Awards 2001; and past district governor Frankie S. Roman.

RP FOOD FIRM IN DUBAI EXPO

Florence Foods, the one-stop-shop supermarket and the country's leading exporter-manufacturer of ethnic Filipino food products for Filipino communities abroad, joined Gulf Food 2001 held recently at the Dubai World Trade Center Exhibition Complex in the United Arab Emirates. The Florence Foods exhibit was headed by export manager Yolly Raca (standing).

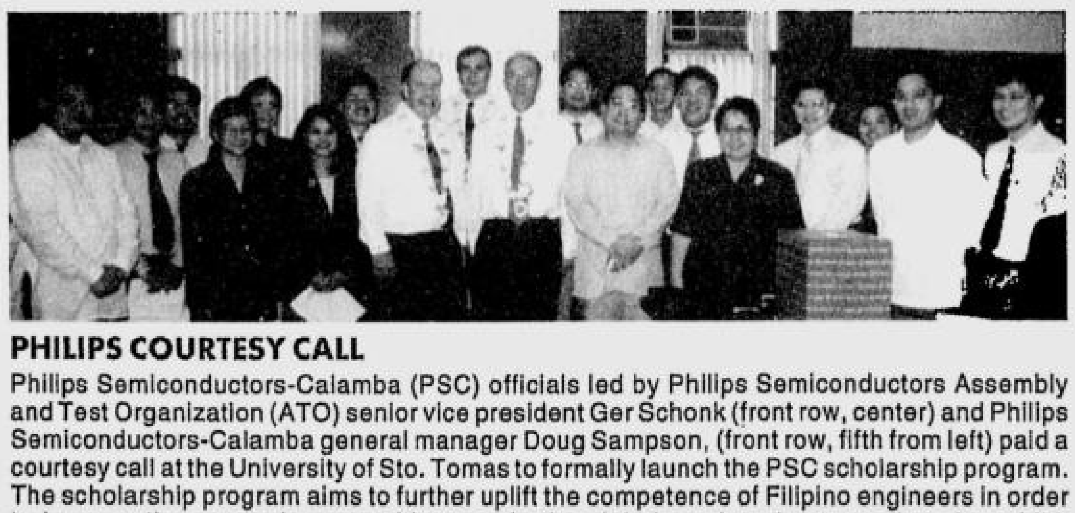
BITS Clips

Rizal High grand reunion

RIZAL High School Batch '79 will hold their grand reunion today, April 9, 1 p.m., at the Rizal High School Gym. For more information call Tita Pagkalinawan at 642-5769, Becky E. Salonga at 641-2262 or at cell nos. 0917-9896225.

F&B engineering expo set

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Mechanical Engineers-Manila (Host) Chapter sets the stage for the society's biggest project of the year—the third Food and Beverage Engineering Expo 2001 at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on August 16 to 19. This would be a great opportunity for participants to forge business ties, create beneficial corporate relations and solidify consolidations. For inquiries, call the Secretariat at 3717398, 3733601 loc. 216, and at telefax 3717405; email eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph or visit www.foodandbeverageexpo.bizland.com.



PHILIPS COURTESY CALL

Philips Semiconductors-Calamba (PSC) officials led by Philips Semiconductors Assembly and Test Organization (ATO) senior vice president Ger Schonk (front row, center) and Philips Semiconductors-Calamba general manager Doug Sampson, (front row, fifth from left) paid a courtesy call at the University of Sto. Tomas to formally launch the PSC scholarship program. The scholarship program aims to further uplift the competence of Filipino engineers in order to improve the country's competitiveness in the global semiconductor market. An exhibit provided students with a clear overview of the operations of Philips Semiconductors and its contribution to the country's economic and social development.

UST HOSPITAL NEW STAFF OFFICERS

The officers of the Santo Tomas University Hospital (STUH) house staff organization (HSO) for 2001 were inducted into office by HSO adviser Dr. Benito L. Uy during the graduation ceremonies of the residents and fellows at the CME auditorium. Photo shows, from left: Dr. Domingo Sampang of Surgery, president; Dr. Dennis Flores of Pediatrics, treasurer; Dr. Charlemagne Guerrero of Medicine; Dr. Olive Roque of Pediatrics, secretary; and Dr. Clevelina Calma of Medicine, vice-president. Not in photo is Eric del Valle of Radiological Sciences, auditor.

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HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Affordable Maids 872-0265

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

Home Maid Specialist Call Tel. 660-4589

MAIDS 9124701 • 9124706

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND **MAIDS** Call: Joy 873-5271 • 873-7055

Prov'l All Around Maids Driver H'Boy w/NBI 8735062 • 8712372

RELIABLE MAID YAYA 741-8078

Yaya all around 6564921

LIPAT BAHAY

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Closed VAN-OPEN 7812846

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

LIPAT BAHAY 824-1227

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

KALOOCAN

Caloocan GP 325m² Hse w/3 Stry 9283267

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANDALUYONG

•Nr Vergara St P4M LA250• 3BR FA180 DBO 7215226

QUEZON CITY

Kamia's w/Comm'l Units 600m² 15M 9283267

Mayon QC w/6 Units 480m² 22T/m² 9283267

Nr. Morato 7 Units Apt. 690m² 25T/m² 9283267

Nr. Retiro Banawe 267m² w/Hse 7M Nice 9283267

Panay QC 1000m² w/2 Hse 2Stry Bung 26T/m² 9283267

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Alabang Hills 3BR LA450 Den Nice P10M • 533-5525

LAS PINAS

Auburn Bnew 2Stry 3br 2tb 2.2M Terms 8726951

BFR 3br 2tb 1.8M 3br 2tb 2.5M 8726951 / 8723140

BFR Bnew Cor. 2Stry 4br 4tb 2.9M 8726951

LAS PINAS/ BACOOR
2-4 BRS. Cash or Terms
874-0486 • 874-0487
873-5949 • 874-2175

MAKATI

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income • 928-1469

Magallanes Subd 4BR MQ LA367 FA320 • 643-5313

DASMA-1679m² 5BR 4TB Pool @78m 8440130 Rosie

MANILA

L. Guinto 323m² 2Stry 3br Nr Sch @11M 8440130

MANDALUYONG

195sqm Mand 5333688 Rush

215sqm Near EDSA Short Cut Mktl 531-0046/533-4681

MARIKINA

Good Buy @ 8.5M very nice Tri-Lev LA600 Big pool 8253244

PARANAQUE

2Sty 3BR Near NAIA 1.5M Neg Call Mrs. Bay Tel. 821-8925

PASIG

Pasig City H&L A-250m² P2.5M • 534-6610 Jojo

QUEZON CITY

Acropolis 300-330m² P17-20M 4BR 2Sty 6337601-03

Samat St w/ 5Stry Bldg 600m² SMH w/Hse 9298376

D. Tuazon St SMH QC 411m² 2Stry 928-1469

Baler St. Q.C. LA=3000m² WHse 18T/m² • 928-1469

Loyola Grand Villas 9M neg 09177062620 ; 4352346

Mayon St SMH QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

Mira Nila QC 354FA 5br 5t&b 3stry 150LA 6.9M 9289714/9279609/4532899

Nr Ateneo FA315 LA268 H'O Ok w/View 12M 6453731

Sikatuna Bung LA412 4br FA250 8.5M Nice 6453731

UP Village QC Old House LA400m² 6-8M • 533-5525

RIZAL

Beverly Hills LA1700sqm FA700m² P15M • 655-9393

Dacon Townhomes LA155m² FA90m² 1.8M • 655-9393

Homepoint Subd. LA79sqm FA60m² P950T • 655-9393

PROVINCIAL

Baguio House & Lot Good Location 531-3742

1Hectares Bulacan Rdy 4 Piggery P3.5M 9281469

Tagaytay 249.5M 2Stry B-new Call 928-1469

Batangas Vacation House 2.4has. T-8611825/35

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay L286m² 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

VARIOUS AREAS

Baguio 500m² 3hses fur 8M Teachers Vill 600m² bung w/bodega/income 3BR 11M call Mrs Camacho 9215479

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo Caloocan City 5Tm² VLot P3500/m² 928-1469

LAS PINAS

BFR Rush 414 5T 526 5.2 5T 343 5.5ST 169 8726951

BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6,500/m² • 874-7234

MANILA

A. Mabini VAC LOT 488m² @P50K/m² 8440130 Rosie

MANDALUYONG

9 de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

MUNTINLUPA

Hillsborough Area 450sqm P4M 655-4556 • 655-9393

PARANAQUE

Tahanan-Vac Lot 280sqm @12K/sqm • 844-0130

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

V/L Multi-Natl 2Lots 615ea Main Rd Cheap 6435313

QUEZON CITY

2.5Has Resdl Lot Ideal Twnhse Devt QC 937-1536

4.5Has Resdl VL Cheap Diliman QC • 937-1536

Loyola Grand 600m² @ P8500 Call 09185079799

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • 928-1469

T-Sora 755m² 634-8160

RIZAL

300m² Palos Verdes Antipolo Very Cheap • 937-1536

Antipolo V/L w/fruit trees 5300m² w/old Hse 6435313

Imelda Ave 464sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Kingsville Hills Area 120sqm P3T/sqm 655-9393, 655-4556

Montevista Hgts. Area: 140sqm P4,000/sqm 655-9393

Montevista Hts Area: 179sqm 3,900/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

San Martin Subd. Area: 240m² 2,500/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Taytay 1Ha. Comm'l Nat'l Rd 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Village East Area 387sqm 4,500/m² 655-9393, 655-4556

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 5313742

With Old House Area 426sqm P3M • 655-9393 / 655-4556

PROVINCIAL

Calamba Comml LOT 180m² P15T/m² or Swap w/ Condo Call (049) 5455173 Gigi

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Angat Bulacan Farm Lot 18Has @250m² 872-0470

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

CALAMBA HILLS SUB-DIV. MAYAPA, CALAMBA, LAGUNA CORNER LOT 311m² NEAR SCHOOL 09192800275

Cityland, Paliparan Farmlots 791m² 668m² (adjoining) 6559393

Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

Fort Magsaysay 18Has Resd'l P450m² 5313742

Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 5313742

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hi-way • 928-1469

San Pablo Farm Lot 2.1HA P600/sqm • 842-1571

Prime Lot 4Sale 711sqmt Near Center Mall Baguio Roland (074) 442-7409 443-5221

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 9283267

TAGAYTAY PROPERTIES House & Lots • 681-2457

Tagaytay Royale w/Share 447m² Cor Lot 6337601-03

Tagaytay w/View 5802sqm P2000/sqm • 633-7601-03

Villa Segovia Sta Rosa 2 corner LOTS 5313742

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

3 Salcedo 3Br 9155177

Cityland 8 Studio 22sqm Furn Tel 750T call Elsa 531-4590 or 0917-8479787

Colonade Legaspi Village 3BR 3TB 9.5M 915-5177

LeGrand Salcedo Vill. 2BR ful furn 6.3M 5312021

Makati 2-3BR P3.8M Cash/Terms Call 533-5525

•Le Domain PH 102m² 2BR 1carpk 5.9M Tel 412-1825

MANILA

MIDTOWN EXECUTIVE UN Ave. Mla. P6 5M Carlo 09177918909/526-1193

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Pioneer 42m² DBO 746-4274 • 0917-4059559

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PARANAQUE

Paranaque City LA68m² 3BRs P3M • 533-5525

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

67m² CONDO w/Spool 24Hr Security Pasig Nr C-5 1.6M Cash 6428925 • 0918-9003597 Emy

Phoenix Hts 2BR 120m² 4.8M 4121825 09177914366

Phoenix Hts Condo P5.2M 135m² 3BR carprk 4121825

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

Renaissance 3000 2Bdrms 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance Tower Meralco Ave. 634-8160

Sale or Rent Condo Unit Medical Plaza Ortigas 141-146594 (0917) 3815838

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo 1.3M EZTerm 9126976 9132224 4381480

A Modern Office - Residential Condominium
ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
Lawan St., A. Blvd. Cubao nr Ateneo, UP, PSBA, NCBA
Complete Amenities
P1M &up P50TD/P 3yrs 0% or P15,500 for 5 years
**FREE GIVEAWAYS!
Cellphones,Cabinet Rangehood
MOVERS DEV'T & MKTG.
9120876/4334162/4331073

El Jardin Bohol Ave QC 2 Studios 1Cg Call 915-5177

Kamias 3Dr 12M 9155177

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

Nr Ateneo LA72 FA149 3br 2tb Nr Nice 6453731

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

Narra Hts1 3BR 2TB 1CG 125m² 915-5177 641-9346

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

One Beverly Place 7.2M 3br mq pkg 157m² 6435313

PROVINCIAL

Europa Condo FA171sqm Price P4M • 655-9393

Nova 850T 44sqm 7515122

OTHER AREAS

T-Hse 4BR FF F-Carpel 3 5M Baguio City Brent Wood Vill 851-9204

VARIOUS AREAS

2BR Burgundy Plaza QC 2.9M 1BR BSA Suites Mktl 4M 927-4517 • 0917-5382461

Makati/Ortigas 300-1500m² Ready to Use • 533-5525

MEMORIAL LOT

Loyola Mkn 35T 8386652/45

Pateros Garden Of Memories 8 Lots Call 829-1809

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FARM/FISHPEN

21Has Mango Orchard & Resort Bataan • 937-1536

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BRTB TEL GRG 15T 8443622

Apt 2BR beside Makati Municipal Hall T-8103019

MANDALUYONG

2Br 916 Banahaw St. Mand. Tel # 533-7709 to 12

QUEZON CITY

2BR 8 5T NU BLT 7214304

New Mla TH Sale/Rent 7317883

VNice 1BR Nr Katipunan C-5 727-5728/682-1467

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

Bung Type 4br 2car grg Levitown Pque 7161495 / 0917 5412127 10T/mo.

RIZAL

RENT 2 OWN Country Homes Cainta P9T/mo. 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Crown Tower Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF w/Pkg. Mds Rm. P65T/mo. 896-6665

SAN JUAN

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

OTHER AREAS

P3.5T/Day Baguio City 8519204 4BR Brent Wood Vill. Transient

VARIOUS AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 2-3BRs 122-300m² 25T-85T 533-5525

FOR LEASE

1-3 Hec P50-70/m² With Bldg Cell 0917-4149898

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

Mindanao Ave. nr Cong'l 1400m² lot with 400m² warehse Call 9291863

ROOM & BOARD

LADIES Mktl. 7898246 Ana

Mktl Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995386

Near DLSU/Quirino Ave. Call 523-5465 / 523-8761

w/CR 5333688 Big Rm Mand

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

70m² Roosevelt Ave. 2C 438-3970; 0917-7914379

● PSE-TEKTITE ● 50m² FF 631-4648 / 57

Makati Office Space 195m² 500/m² • 533-5525

TEKTITE
Office Space 50m²
913-0278 / 0919-5653456 Rafly

WIDE GATE MALABON 3610652

RESORT

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'98 MB100D P385 7313492

HYUNDAI

'98 258T '94 205T Grace 7313492

KIA

'98 BESTA P245T 7313492

'98 PREGIO P340T 7313492

MAZDA

'96 Mazda all power Gll-Black, Glx-White 821-9969 pm

MERCEDES

MB 126 Body See 2 apprcte • 634-8160

MITSUBISHI

S-Wagon Acq.'93 634-8160

NISSAN

96 N. Terrano 490T 861-8568

98 Cefiro Elite A1 A/T 19Tkms 780K 8420343 DBO

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

Anti-Rust Device P2950 T#4931802/0919-2359695

mazda NISSAN HONDA
RADIATOR FAN & MOTOR PARTS & SERVICE
1 month guaranteed work
RUBBERVOLT
36 West Avenue, Quezon City
115 Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
Tel # 929-1514 Credit Cards Honored

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

CAR VANS 413-5383

Bnew HiAce 6336754 9100893

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB100 HiAceL300 2973807

SELFDRIVE-New Cars & Vans, Daily or Long Term ABC-5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

SATRAP

CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

needs a

PROJECT MANAGER

and a

PROJECT ENGINEER

- Project Location: Ilocos Sur
- Project Duration: Two (2) to Three (3) years
- With experience as Project Manager/Project Engineer in Civil Construction particularly roads and bridges and handled at least P270.0 M worth single project
- The company is willing to negotiate or hire even after the project based on performance

Contact Tel. Nos. 564-3262/65/70/71/73. Look for Leonor

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

WANTED TO BUY

We Buy Cars Cash 6718191

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Lab/Choco 3mo/10T 9331434

Maltese Shiatzu Chihua² Lab Pups 9112099 9976469

SPORTING GOODS

BTABLE B'New/Accessories (02)801-4494/802-0566

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair **ROLEX** Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

MISCELLANEOUS

1Riso GR1700Mdl P180T w/ 2drums 2940659 0917-5382461

Computer P15T 435-2335

Telfax, xerox, jeep, vcam8 call 09179903588/3508857

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Architect M 2-4yrs Exp. Licensed 9289714 9279609

WANTED
URGENT MALE ACCOUNTING CLERK
FRESH GRADUATE, COMPUTER LITERATE FOR BATANGAS ASSIGNMENT
Free board and lodging. Send bio-data, Application with 2x2 picture. P.O. Box 7079 ADC, NAIA, Pasay City or Fax 823-6503.

FEMALE

Skin Therapist & M.D. w/ Exp. for Ayala Alabang & Antipolo, Marcos H-way Assignment Call Josie 721-9227/28

JOB OPENING
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SECRETARY / Reception Area *
- Female, college graduate
- 20 to 25 years old, 5'3 to 5'5 height
- pleasing personality is highly required
- knowledge in computer and typing
- honest and hardworking

SECRETARY
- Female, 20 to 30 years old
- 5'2 to 5'5 hgt., pleasing personality
- knowledge in computer & typing
- w/ 2 years experience in an International Agency

POEA / EMBASSY LIASON OFFICER
- Male or female, with pleasing personality
- Knowledge in computer and typing
- W/ at 2 years experience in an International Agency
- Honest and hardworking

REQUIREMENTS: -
Resumé w/ 4pcs. Recent 2x2 photo, cert. of employment, NBI, Police & Brgy. Clearance & college diploma [illegible]
INTERVIEW: APR. 17 & 23, 2001 / 10:AM - 3:PM
MAPP INTERNATIONAL
3rd Flr. Suite 25 Legaspi Towers 300 Roxas Blvd., cor. Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila Tel # 525-5387, 536-5451

JOB OPENING
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
(TO BE BASED IN TRECE MARTIREZ, CAVITE)

SECRETARY
- Female, coll. grad., computer literate
- 20-30 yrs. old, 5'3 to 5'5 hgt., w/ pleasing personality
- 2 yrs. Experience in a related field is required
- pref. Know how to speak Japanese language

SCHOOL CLERICAL STAFF
- College graduate, knowledge in computer & typing
- 5'2 to 5'5 hgt., pleasing personality
- Experienced required

JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR
- Male Female, college graduate
- Irrespective of nationality
- w/ at least 2 yrs. Experienced in teaching

REQUIREMENTS:
Resumé w/ 4pcs. recent 2x2 photo, college diploma, certificate of employment, good moral character from the school last attended, NBI, Police & Brgy. Clearance
INTERVIEW: APR. 17 & 23, 2001 / 10:AM - 3:PM
MAPP FOUNDATION
3rd Flr. Suite 25 Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., cor., Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila
Tel # 525-5387, 536-5451 Email www.mapp@mapp.org.ph

MAPP FOUNDATION

(Mutual Assistance For Philippine Professional Foundation)

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Date of Inauguration	June 20, 2001
Topic	Japanese Special Technical Terms, Japanese Practices, Customs and Skills
First Term Trainees	OPEN FOR NURSING PROFESSIONALS to accommodate 750 students/trainee as per schedule Selected by way of intermediate exams
Qualifications	below 45 years old Graduates of Nursing or medical schools or colleges
Second Term Trainee	OPEN FOR CAR & PRECISION MECHANIC to accommodate 1500 students
Qualifications	Below 45 years old Graduate of College or Vocational Schools
Duration	6-12 months
Schedule	Monday to Friday / Saturday, Sundays and Holidays
Accommodation	50 students per class 15 to 17 classes (Two Shifts)
Third Term Trainees	OPEN TO VARIOUS TRADE OCCUPATIONS
After Third Term	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) for Engineers

Applicants Orientation Meeting
May 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Philippine International Convention Center
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Deadline for submission of Application
First Term Students - May 21, 2001
Final Selection - May 31, 2001

FOR REGISTRATION AND PRE QUALIFICATION SUBMIT OR SEND RESUMÉ 2-2 X2 COLORED PICTURES, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE TO MANILA OFFICE ONLY

MANILA OFFICE: 3rd Floor, Suite 25 LEGASPI TOWERS 300
Roxas Boulevard, cor. VitoCruz, Malate, Manila
Tel 525-5387, 536-5451
Email. www.mapp@msap.org.ph

CAVITE: Don Bosco Executive Village, Governors Drive
Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martires

(NOTE: ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTRATION WILL START ON APRIL 17, 2001)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T-5280722

IMMIGRATE LIVE and WORK in Canada Australia 8175511/8944950

Ofc Staff 9134470 Petty

Ofc Staff 9134470 Jay

Office Staff 9134470 Lee

Wanted: Immediately Barber, All Around Beautician See us in Person Bring Bio Data Grd Flr. 25 Annapolis Greenhills

Wtd. Yaya/Cook/Fam. Driver H/Maids Call Tel. 660-4589

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•EARN FR HOME 8531008•

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ELECTION/PROMO Beach Golf Umbrella Pens Mugs T-shirt W'clock 532-3909

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. FREE DEMO 2553584/2537617

Meat shop with comp. equip. + del. van with existing clients rush owner leaving 290T 532-3209

Organic Fertilizer Dealership 8175511/8944950

RTW / Swimsuits 727-4934

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

Supervisor US$ 8951381

Triple your Money in 1 Yr. (0917) 4719372 (Dave)

T-SHIRT SALE TEL4383147

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas
Workers
Welfare
Administration

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The 'Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) will conduct prequalification of prospective bidders to bid for the supply and delivery of Computers and Printers (Branded only).

ITEMS SPECIFICATIONS

-16-	units	Intel Pentium III 600 Mhz with CD ROM
-5-	units	Printer 24 pin Dot Matrix, 132 columns
-12-	units	Inkjet Printer, 600 x 1200 dpi w/ complete accessories
-2-	units	Notebook Computer Intel Pentium III - 600 Mhz processor with CD Rom Drive

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Chairman, PBAC thru the General Services and Property Division, Room 301, 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Building corner F.B. Harrison and 7th Street, Pasay City not later than April 18, 2001 photocopies of the following documents (original to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation issued by SEC.
2. Business Registration issued by DTI.
3. Valid Municipal License.
4. Income Tax Return (ITR) for the past 2-years.
5. Audited financial statements for the past 2-years.
6. Value Added Tax registration.
7. List of clients for the past 3-years.
8. Company profile.

Only those who comply with the requirements and are prequalified by OWWA will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and the bidding which will be conducted on later dates to be advised to the pre-qualified bidders.

The two (2) envelopes system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever loses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bids.

For more information please see or call the General Services and Property Division, 3/F Rm. 301, OWWA Center Building at phone numbers **891-7601** to **24** local 5304 and **833-0113**.

(Sgd.) **MARIANITO D. ROQUE**
Chairman
Pre-Qualification, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Apr 7 8 & 9 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-20

Bidding Date	May 14, 2001 - 10:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference	May 07, 2001 - 2:00 PM (Sampaguita Room)

Sch. I. SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR PARCELLARY MAPPING SURVEY OF LIBMANAN - LUPI 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

Sch. II. SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR THE PARCELLARY MAPPING, RELOCATION AND SUBDIVISION SURVEY OF AFFECTED LOTS FOR LEYTE-BOHOL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT (STAGE-II)

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above using TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms will be issued at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory starting April 10, 2001. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms on April 20, 2001.

Bidding documents will be issued from April 27 to May 03, 2001 upon payment of P200.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE) at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. For inquiries please call no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

PBAC - SERVICE CONTRACTS OF PARCELLARY MAPPING AND INVESTIGATION SURVEY FOR 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
NPC-OBC (Head Office), Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Apr. 9 & 10, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

TODAY, BATAAN DAY, the following Branch Offices will be opened to serve your advertising needs:

MAIN OFFICE-Pasong Tamo	**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
MAKATI-ATRIUM	**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
CUBAO-ALIMALL	**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
ORTIGAS-MEGAMALL	**10:00 AM to 9:00 PM**

Department of Health
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
FCC, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, 1770 Philippines
Fax No. (632) 842-2828, 842-2245, Tel. Nos. (632) 807-2628 to 32
Direct Line 809-7599, E-mail: mail_to@ritm.gov.ph

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute for CY 2001.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) from the Property & Supply Department c/o Ms. MAE MARIE E. HERNANDEZ from April 10-23, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (excluding holidays and weekends).

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 PM	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders Venue and Time	Bid Opening	Venue and Time
Janitorial	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 9:00-11:00 AM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 9:00 AM
Security	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 1:00-3:00 PM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 1:30 PM
Engineering Maintenance	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 3:00-5:00 PM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 3:00 PM

Interested Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. SEC registration with articles of incorporation (copy should be properly notarized)
2. Business permit
3. Department of Health Accreditation (if applicable)
4. List of clients in the past 5 years
5. Certification of performance for existing clients (except RITM)
6. Organizational profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
7. Inventory of existing equipment
8. Audited Financial Statement for CY's 2000 and 1999

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the scheduled day of bid opening accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price. The bid security may be in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

RITM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Institute.

(Sgd.) REMIGIO M. OLVEDA, M.D., CESO III
Director IV

(PDI – Apr 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

February 12, 2001

The National Power Corporation (NPC) has obtained a loan from Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) to finance the foreign exchange cost of various spare parts and equipment for various NPC Plants/Substations (KfW Batch 4) and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract, for which this "Invitation For Bids" is being issued. With this, NPC invites sealed bids from eligible firms that are domiciled in the Federal Republic of Germany (that conduct there a significant portion of their business, and whose goods and services for the programme originate chiefly in the Federal Republic of Germany) for items listed below.

Schedule	Qty	Description
4A-1	1-lot	Measuring Equipment w/ Trailer
4A-2	4-units	Generator Condition Monitor
4A-3	29-pcs	Spare Parts of ABB Distance Relay
4A-4	2-sets	Air Compressor
4B-1	1-unit	Transformer 50MVA
	31-sets	Circuit Breaker 230, 138 & 69KV
4B-2	6-sets	Disconnect Switch 138 & 69KV
4B-3	2-sets	Lightning Arrester 138KV
4B-4	34-pcs.	Instrument Transformer 138 & 69KV
4B-5	3-units	Battery Charger
	1-set	Thermal Imaging System
	1-set	Oil Tester Portable, Automatic

A complete set of Tender documents shall be available for issuance at the Office of the Bids & Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building II, National Power Corporation, cor. Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code: 1104) Philippines starting **April 20, 2001** upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a registration fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on **May 11, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the Solarium Conference Room, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Bids & Contracts Management Dept. (BCMD) Telefax No. 921-23-08.

Deadline for submission of accomplished bids shall be not later than 9:00 AM of **May 25, 2001**.

NPC reserves the right to reject any application or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) A.T. CORPUZ
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – April 8 & 9, 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-01-009

Interested suppliers are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Strategic Power Utilities Group, National Power Corporation, Training Center Building, BIR Road corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

VENUE: 2F TRAINING CENTER BUILDING, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY
BIDDING DATE: APRIL 25, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

IN CASE OF FAILED BIDDING, DOCUMENTS WILL BE
RE-ISSUED ON APRIL 25, 2000 UNTIL MAY 04, 2001

AUTOMATIC RE-BIDDING
DATE: MAY 07, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

SCHED	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
A	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR IHI MINI BOILER
B	SPARE PARTS FOR MAN GENSET
C	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR 1224KW CKD GENSET
D	SPARE PARTS FOR HASEGAWA AIR COMPRESSOR
E	ELECTRICAL SPARE PARTS FOR DALE GINSET
F	ELECTRICAL SPARE PARTS FOR CUMMINS GENSET
G	SPARE PARTS FOR H.O. PURIFIER
H	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR 448KW CKD GENSET
I	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR PIELSTICK GENSET

BIDDING DATE: APRIL 26, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

IN CASE OF FAILED BIDDING, DOCUMENTS WILL BE
RE-ISSUED ON APRIL 26, 2000 UNTIL MAY 04, 2001

AUTOMATIC RE-BIDDING
DATE: MAY 03, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

A	VARIOUS LEAD ACID BATTERIES
B	VARIOUS 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE TOOLS
C	STEEL POLES, CROSSARMS AND OTHER HARDWARES
D	BLANK RECORDABLE CD
E	REFILL AND REPAIR OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
F	WELDING RODS AND O-RING
G	BELZONA 1111 SUPERMETAL AND CLOTH, CROCUS
H	METAL HOSES

BIDDING DATE: APRIL 25, 2001
TIME: 2:00 PM

SCHED	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
A	JOB ORDER: TANK CLEANING OF POWER BARGE 106

RE-BIDDING DATE: APRIL 26, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

SCHED	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
PB000801-PDEV0307(PB2)	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR DALE GENSET
PB010119-PDDM0470(PB2)	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR HITACHI SULZER
PB010316-PDDM0534(PB2)	DRYDOCKING OF POWER BARGE 106

Only accredited suppliers/haulers/brokers can participate in the bidding. All bids shall be secured with a bid bond in the amount equivalent to five (5%) percent of the total bid. The bid security shall be in the form of cash bonds, manager's check, cashier's checks or surety bond issued by GSIS. As for non-NPC accredited suppliers/haulers/brokers, application forms for accreditation will be issued at Materials Management Department, National Power Corporation corner Quezon Avenue and BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, between 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished bid forms addressed to the Manager, Administrative Services Division, Strategic Power Utilities Group (SPUG) before the time and date of the scheduled bidding. **ALL ITEMS MUST BE DELIVERED AT SITE.**

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting APRIL 11, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 per schedule for bidding of supplies which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., company authorization and Original Certificate of Accreditation issued by NPC - H.O./MMRC/SLRC/NLRC/MRC/VRC and upon presentation of Certificate of Outstanding Performance from the Region. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM only at the above mentioned address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI – Apr. 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION BOARD
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

29 March 2001

INVITATION TO BIDDER

The National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) invites all interested and accredited suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bid on May 10, 2001, 3:00 PM for the following equipment.

2u Proliant DL 380RC1 (Server)
1u UPS for Server
1u Laser Printer
8u Personal Computers
1u Line Printer
3u UPS for workstations

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, TSSD, NCMB, Ground Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila from April 10-20, 2001.

Bidders bond is required equivalent to 2.5% of Bid in Cash/Manager's Check/GSIS Surety (original).

The NCMB have the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For inquiries, please contact the Financial and Management Division with telephone number 527-3423.

(Sgd.) ELENITA F. CRUZ
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Apr 8,9 & 10, 2001)

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the
25th Death Anniversary of
MA. FE CASTIGADOR HIGWIT, RN. (UP)
EDGAR CASTIGADOR HIGWIT, JR. and
LILIA CASTIGADOR CATEDRILLA

Atty. EDGAR HIGWIT & children MICHELLE, NANETTE and CLAUDETTE, request readers to pray for their souls.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

"And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever"

One year ago today, our dearly beloved

RODOLFO L. SANTOS

April 24, 1923 - April 9, 2000

Was called by the Lord to begin a new life with Him in Heaven. And so today, we remember that memorable event in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at:

Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque .... 3:00 PM
Garden of Grace II, Phase II

We, his family Teny, Andy, Ruding, Marie and Billy del Rosario, Eddie and Marite, Ser and Bunnie, Rey and Sheila, Dottie and Alex; and all his grandchildren would like to thank our relatives and friends who blessed Papa Rody with love and prayers, and who continue to keep his memory in their hearts.

"You are gone but to us you never left. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts."

In Loving Memory
On the 5th Death Anniversary of

ASUNCION M. GEMPERLE

August 7, 1931 - April 11, 1996

We, her family, together with her brothers, sisters, and relatives, request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

Holy Mass will be offered on April 11, 2001
at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 Noon, 6:00 PM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
St. John Bosco (Don Bosco) Parish Pasay Road, Makati City	6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Doña Juana, New Manila, Quezon City	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, Quezon City	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose Greenhills East, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:15 AM, 7:15 AM, 6:15 PM
Mary The Queen Parish Greenhills West, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Sancta Maria Stella Orientis Chapel University of Asia and the Pacific, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	7:45 AM and 12:05 Noon

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
(National Edition)

Box Ad	- P230.00/col. cm.-
Line Ad	- P 65.00/line
Obituaries	- P230.00/col. cm.

JOB MARKET
(Metro Manila Edition)
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

Color Surcharge for NC and JM
1 spot color - 30% / 2 spot color - 60% / Full color - 80%

CLASSIFIED ASSETS
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.
- No color surcharge

* Rates are VAT exclusive

MORE SIGNS OF RECESSION

US jobs slashed at sharpest rate in a decade

WASHINGTON—US jobs were slashed at the sharpest rate in close to a decade in March, the government said Friday, immediately firing speculation about a quick interest-rate cut before the Federal Reserve's next scheduled policy meeting in mid-May.

While many analysts thought the US central bank would hold off until its May 15 session, the Bush administration noted the economy was still weakening and a Fed regional bank president said policymakers were focused on sustaining growth.

The Labor Department said a total of 86,000 jobs were lost in March—the first time jobs were cut from payrolls since August last year—and that the national unemployment rate had crept up to 4.3 percent from 4.2 percent.

Forecasts were for 58,000 more jobs to be created in March rather than for losses. Employees were shed by manufacturers, retailers and temporary-help placement companies.

The March jobs reduction was the steepest for any month since 94,000 were dropped off payrolls in November 1991, not long after the last recession had ended and while doubts were still lingering whether that downturn was over.

A recession is generally defined as two straight quarters of economic contraction. The United States has not experienced one since a brief nine-month recession from July 1990 to March 1991 and has enjoyed a record period of prosperity since.

Recession fears on rise

But Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said in response to reporters' questions that the March unemployment data implied a rising risk of recession.

"These figures do indeed indicate that," Chao said. "I think this economy is like the Pillsbury dough boy, it continues to soften," she added, referring to a cartoon-type figure in an advertising jingle that yields to a pointed finger.

The Fed has reduced interest rates aggressively this year, in three half-percentage-point reductions that began on Jan. 3 with a relatively rare cut between scheduled meetings of its policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee.

The Fed last trimmed rates on March 20 and noted that "the economic situation could be evolving rapidly (so) the Federal Reserve will need to monitor developments closely."

Private-sector analysts were split over how sharply odds were rising of another inter-meeting interest-rate move with five weeks remaining until the next scheduled FOMC meeting.

"The economy is sinking, sinking faster," Robert Brusca, chief economist for Ecobest Consulting in New York, told Reuters Television. "It's a lot of weakness and I would really be looking for the Fed to make an inter-meeting move (to lower interest rates)."

But Lynn Reaser, chief economist for Banc of America Capital Management Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri, noted the jobs report did show more jobs in March in key sectors, including construction and retail trade.

"We are not cascading into a recession even though there are some signs of further economic weakening," Reaser said. "The employment report was weak but it did not show a decline that was pervasive nor that would require emergency Fed action."

Stocks slump

Stock prices slumped on the jobs report and bond prices perked up as investors shifted funds to safer havens. A weakening economy means bleaker profit prospects and less opportunity for stock gains.

The dollar lost ground against other world currencies like Japan's yen and the euro. Growth has been slowing globally but, so far, US prospects have been regarded as relatively stronger so that the dollar has been attractive to foreigners.

Despite the loss of jobs last month, average hourly earnings rose 0.4 percent to $14.17 from $14.11 in February. That was a potentially troubling sign for Fed policymakers who were trying to stimulate economic activity while keeping a wary eye on inflation risks.

But Dallas Federal Reserve Bank president Robert McTeer, speaking at a manufacturing conference in Washington, said the US central bank's eye was on preserving expansion.

"There has been inflation creep," said McTeer, who does not have a vote in the FOMC's deliberations. "However, right now the priority is on avoiding a worse slowdown—the focus now is on economic growth rather than inflation."

Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner Katharine Abraham noted that jobs in the service industry—usually an engine of employment growth—edged up only 11,000 in March, which she said largely reflected the release of temporary workers. *Reuters*

US economy in pause, says Bush adviser

WASHINGTON—White House chief economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey said Friday the US economy was experiencing a pause but that the future looked bright.

"We are in perhaps a period of pause" at least in manufacturing, Lindsey said. But he added "the future looks bright" despite the US economic slowdown.

Lindsey, speaking to participants at a conference on manufacturing, said a number of key indicators of industrial production appeared to have peaked last September.

He said the challenge now for the administration was to ensure that the pause "remains just that."

But he said it was important that President George W. Bush's economic team resisted getting in the way of change when doing this. "You could look at the last decade in Japan as an effort to hold back change and to preserve prosperity," he said.

Another option would be to try and channel funds into sectors that were hit by the slowdown, he said. But there was little point in doing this as ultimately "the market should make judgements about where the money goes", he added. *Reuters*

Goldman Sachs lowers GM outlook

DETROIT—Goldman Sachs & Co. lowered its 2001 earnings estimate for General Motors Corp. after the automaker said it would recall thousands of sport-utility vehicles and idle the plant that makes them.

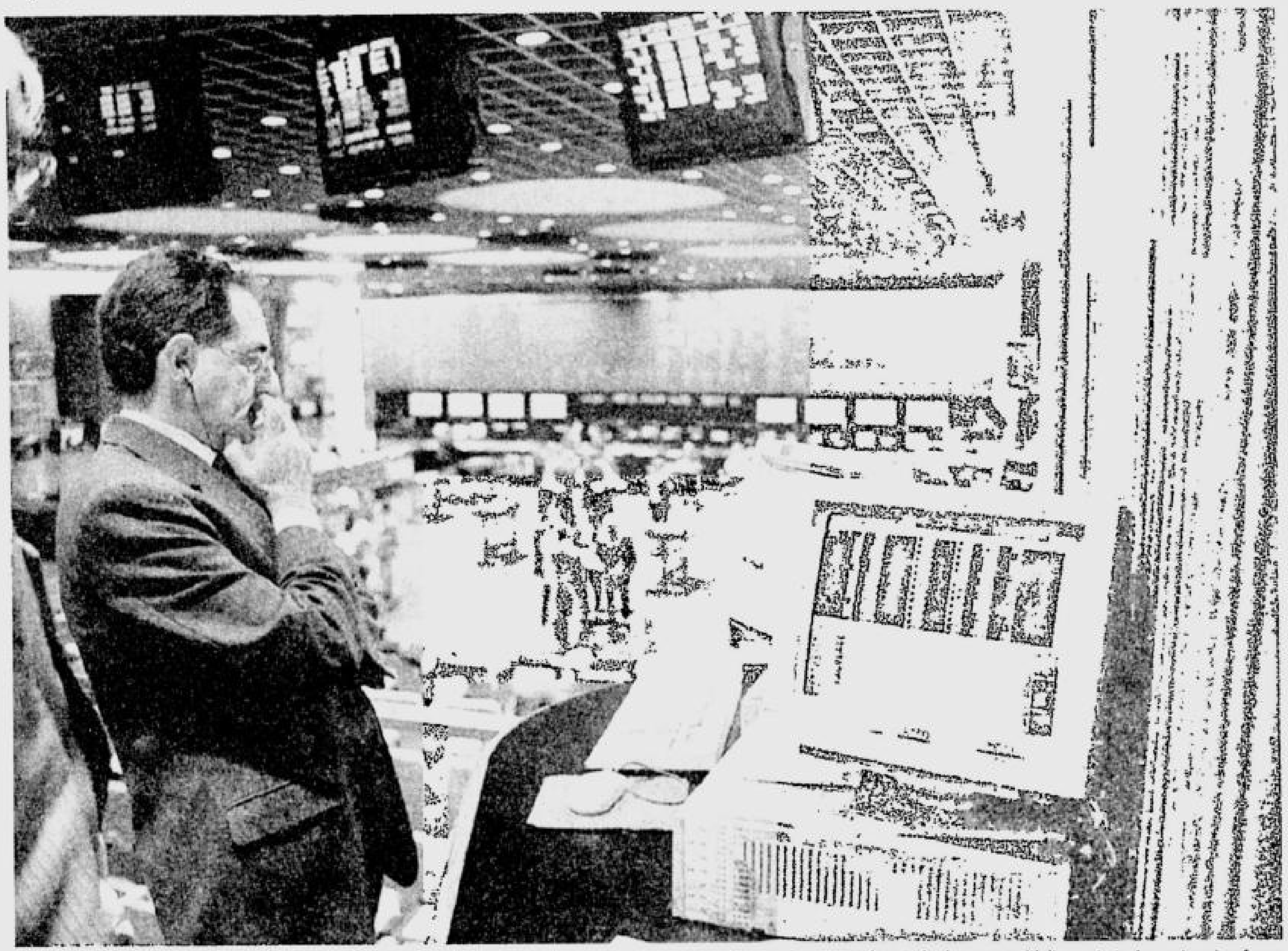
Goldman Sachs auto analyst Gary Lapidus on Friday cut GM's 2001 estimate by 15 cents to $4.60 a share to reflect the cost of the lost production volume.

Lapidus said the change was based on an estimated profit margin of $10,000 per vehicle on 8,000 units and other various costs related to the fix.

GM said Thursday it planned to recall 6,000 sport-utility vehicles, including its 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer, 2002 GMC Envoy and 2002 Oldsmobile Bravada, because of a safety concern over a suspension part.

GM asked customers who bought those vehicles to stop driving them immediately.

GM also said it would idle its Moraine, Ohio, sport-utility vehicle plant until April 16 so it could fix the faulty parts. *AP*



A TRADER watches a monitor at the Buenos Aires stock market. Argentine markets had a renaissance of sorts in January with its main index returning from the dead to soar a whopping 28 percent. But no one's popping champagne corks on the market. As several Argentine companies passed to foreign hand during the last years, major local stocks are not traded any more in Buenos Aires, but in New York or Madrid. Daily volume on the exchange is about $30 million, a far cry from the $443 million traded daily in 1994.
AP

Not much good news from earnings season

NEW YORK—One of the greatest fears on Wall Street is that the past few weeks of earnings warnings and triple-digit declines has just been a rehearsal—and that the market is likely to endure more turmoil this month when companies actually issue their first-quarter reports.

The numbers that will start trickling in during the coming weeks are expected to be the weakest year-over-year quarterly results in about a decade. And while investors might think they're prepared for the worst, analysts expect Wall Street to react badly.

"We have not entered the phase yet where the market is going to disregard bad news," said AC Moore, chief investment officer for Dunvegan Associates in Santa Barbara, California. "There is a time when the nervous selling has been done, when there is a scintilla of improvement ahead, and when bad news tends to roll off. But we're not there yet."

A big question at this point is: What constitutes good or bad news?

If companies can simply meet lowered expectations, investors might consider that positive news, analysts say. It's less clear whether investors will drive prices higher based on such reports, and, if they do, whether those gains can last.

"Six months ago, if you just said you were going to meet expectations, your stock would have been trashed," said Ronald J. Hill, an investment strategist at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. in New York. "Now, meeting expectations is the best anyone can hope for. Just making numbers is probably going to be viewed as good news."

This past week, Dell Computer proved that just standing by weaker estimates can be enough to propel stocks higher.

Desperate for good news, investors sent the Dow soaring 402 points Thursday after Dell said it still expected to earn 17 cents a share on $8 billion in revenue. And the Nasdaq had its third-biggest one-day percentage gain.

Wall Street was so hungry that investors ignored Dell's note of caution that there was a month left in its first quarter, which ends May 4, and that it could not offer earnings projections for the remainder of the year.

"The market was looking for some reason to bounce," said Charles White, a portfolio manager for Avatar Associates, who called Thursday's run-up a bear market rally.

The boost from Dell, a technology bellwether, was enough to erase Tuesday's earnings-related sell-off in which the Dow fell nearly 300 points on warnings from Ariba and Broadvision, two smaller tech companies.

Friday's trading session seemed to confirm that the Dell-inspired surge was indeed a bear market rally—another spate of warnings brought the Dow lower, sending it down 126.96 to 9,791.09 and giving the blue chips a loss of 87.69, or 0.9 percent, for the week.

The key to the market gaining some stability was for companies to at least meet lowered estimates, Hill said. However, Hill's firm, Brown Brothers Harriman, said this past week it expected more companies than ever to miss already reduced forecasts.

And as for truly good news—in other words, better-than-expected earnings—it sounds like investors can pretty much forget about it.

"There is a small chance you will get many upside surprises," Hill said. "There will be companies like Circuit City, Bed Bath & Beyond and Best Buy, all of which beat estimates, but they will be in the distinct minority."

Investors who are also looking for companies to say outlook for future profits is improving are likely to be disappointed, said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer for First Albany.

"We'll be left with the view that the future is very, very unclear or cloudy," he said. *AP*

US to check Japan's eco bailout plan

WASHINGTON—The US Treasury Department on Friday welcomed Japan's latest efforts to strengthen its financial institutions and vowed to monitor their implementation.

"We welcome the Japanese government's heightened focus on the financial sector," a Treasury official said.

"As with any major initiative, implementation will be critical to its success (and) we will be watching to see how it's implemented."

The reform plan approved Friday by the Japanese Cabinet establishes a two-year deadline for banks to dispose of bad debts—estimated by the government to be worth $258 billion—and the establishment of a special fund to buy some of the equity portfolios held by the banks.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill earlier this week expressed disappointment at the delay in announcing the plan. He previously had said Japanese institutions needed to "write their asset base down to its real carrying value—that is to say, the value that can be supported by ongoing earnings."

Analysts have speculated that the Bush administration would probably tolerate a weak yen, which makes US exports more expensive and less competitive, in exchange for action by Japan to implement reforms to stimulate domestic growth.

David Gilmore, an economist at Foreign Exchange Analytics, an independent analysis group, said the Treasury official's comments "fall pretty short of an endorsement."

"It sounds like recognition of more smoke and mirrors out of Japan," he said, adding that Japan's initiative "raises more questions than it provides answers."

That Treasury did not reject the plan implies the United States "is still going to be tolerant of a weak yen, but conditionally tolerant," Gilmore said. *AFP*

Motorola denies money difficulties

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois—Motorola strongly denied Friday a report from an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston that it could soon face serious financial problems because of the scope of its outstanding short-term obligations.

"Motorola today is financially sound," declared company president Robert Growney.

"Any suggestion or erroneous report that Motorola faces a serious liquidity problem is simply not correct and is not supported by fact.

"Our entire management team is highly focused on maintaining a strong balance sheet and improving cash flow. We also have actions well underway to improve our management of working capital."

The analyst, according to a Motorola statement, had said that as of Dec. 31, 2000, the company had outstanding commercial paper—short-term, unsecured debt usually issued in the form of promissory notes—of $6.4 billion.

But Motorola, an electronics and communications firm, maintained that at the end of the first quarter this year, it had cash and cash equivalents of $4.4 billion and $4.1 billion in outstanding commercial paper.

Through Friday, it added, it had more than $4.5 billion in cash and cash equivalents, with outstanding commercial paper reduced to $3.1 billion. *AFP*

Dotcom victims seek refuge in Peace Corps; no tech, please

SAN FRANCISCO—They toiled in Silicon Valley and elsewhere before becoming victims of the dotcom collapse. Now, some are looking for other challenges in developing countries—with the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps, launched in 1961 by then-president John Kennedy, is hoping to exploit the tidal waves of layoffs and lure tech professionals to its new "information technology" program.

The US government international volunteer organization recently posted ads in a San Francisco weekly newspaper that read "Dotcom Dot-Gone? Come see Peace Corps!"

The ads have apparently paid off. In the first three weeks of March, the organization's San Francisco recruiting office received 129 applications, compared with 67 during the same period last year, said Dennis McMahon, a Peace Corps spokesman.

But what has surprised Peace Corps' recruiters is that many tech professionals who called up eager to apply wanted nothing to do with high-tech. Now disillusioned with high-tech, the former computer hotshots want out.

Cameron Brodeur is among them.

"Quite honestly, I feel kind of burned out," said the 27-year-old software engineer at NBCi, the TV network's Web operation in San Francisco.

"Given my background, I'd be very well suited for the IT program, but I told the (Peace Corps) recruiters that I'd really like the opportunity to explore teaching math or science."

Brodeur will soon forfeit his $110,000 salary and—if accepted into the program—will be heading to somewhere in western Africa in July for 2.5 years—the typical Peace Corps stint and a $260 stipend.

While Brodeur has survived two rounds of layoffs at NBCi, he figures he should pre-empt the ax that could fall before long.

The San Francisco Bay Area, the birthing ground to the tech craze, has been hardest hit by the downturn in private and public financing.

Nearly 80 percent of existing dotcoms in the city will likely vanish during the next year, according to a recent study released by Rosen Consulting, a real estate and economic research firm in Berkeley, California. Other analysts say dotcoms are failing at a rate of more than one per day.

Kelly Geyer also wants to just say "no" to tech.

"I'm not sure if I'd call it high-tech burnout, but it seems everything is high-tech around here. You turn on the TV and it's all high tech," said the 24-year-old public relations specialist for Gallagher PR in Alameda, California, which serves telecommunications and other technology clients.

Geyer, who is also going to Africa, would prefer teaching people survival skills, English—anything but technology.

Not every applicant from the tech industry wants to leave tech behind.

Zahra Sabet, a 57-year-old controller for Excelsior, a San Jose, California maker of printed circuit boards, said she'd be happy teaching women accounting and bookkeeping skills so they can start small businesses.

"I'd just like to go some place where I could make a difference," she said.

Whether they apply their tech savvy or leave it behind, California tech professionals pondering a Peace Corps assignment in Mali, Bolivia or another of the 76 countries in which the organization operates, can rest assured of a certain job security that has escaped them in their current work: no layoffs. *AFP*

Just got another order for 100 yards.
I better e-mail my masseuse.

Our connections will get you all the best suppliers.

PLDT Brains' Remote Access Service (RAS) puts servers across the country so you can source your products from anywhere in the Philippines.

If your business is ready for the new e-conomy, our network can put your business online and keep you in touch with your suppliers, wherever they may be. PLDT Brains thinks of the solutions, so you can think of your customers.

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BUSINESS*Monday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

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Another way to nurse firms back to health

By Dennis M. Arroyo

THERE'S this hospital nurse who knows how to terrorize even the most high-paying patients. She backs up her power with the syringe.

Rehabilitation is the corporate equivalent of a hospital bed. Ailing firms are supposed to be nursed back to full health. And yet it's possible to give firms the wrong treatment, leaving them in even worse shape. Power plays may ensue, keeping firms too constricted in their moves. They may be too immobile to recover. But there are alternatives.

My source is the paper, "A Proposal to Adopt the Debtor-in-Possession Principle in Corporate Rehabilitation." It's by Ateneo Law students Ma. Theresa Garcia, Oliver S. Garcia, Kenneth Paul Que and Jenny Santiago.

Taking control over assets

Rehabilitation implies that the company continues to exist and is being nursed back to health. It's meant to strike a balance between the interests of the creditors and those of the indebted company.

What is the Philippine record in the area? It's not very promising. In 1994, for example, there were 59 cases filed for corporate rehabilitation. Two-thirds or 49 of these cases were dismissed.

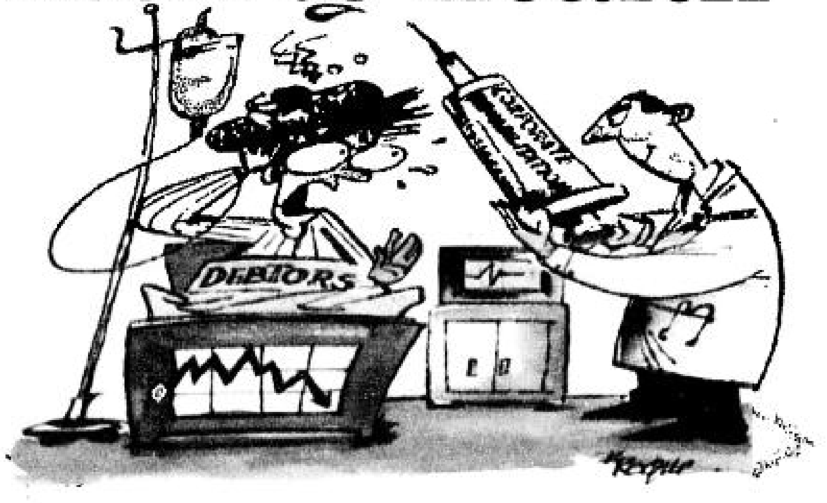
Last December the Supreme Court promulgated its Rules on corporate rehabilitation. A main feature of the Rules is that when a distressed debtor files for rehabilitation, a receiver or trustee is appointed.

The receiver does not take over management. But Section 14 of the Rules says that he "shall closely oversee and monitor the operations of the debtor."

This includes taking possession, control and custody over the debtor's assets. The receiver recommends to the court the best way to protect the interests of the creditors. He may even call for a management committee to take over the firm.

Hence, while formal control remains with the debtor, he is not free to make any decisions without the approval of the receiver. He does not have the flexibility to design his

ANOTHER/ C11



DUNN

Creating hospitality in the medical world

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

OVER A decade ago Tucson Dunn's father was hospitalized for a month in the US because of a heart disease.

"He stayed in a semi-private room where the nurses and hospital staff treated the patients very impersonally, the food was terrible, and at the end of the month, his bill was $160,000 (P8 million)!" Dunn, the CEO of the currently under construction Asian Hospital, recalls.

This prompted the young graduate who was then involved in the retail sector to study how to institute hospitality in the healthcare business.

His study led to a program that was instituted at the Boston Hospital in 1991 called "Hospital (ity)." The program, according to Dunn, entailed creating multi-tasked employees; uplifting the menu "not just through clinical nutrition but presentation as well; hiring a guest services manager from the Ritz Carlton and a concierge program was implemented."

Dunn was eventually tapped by the Harvard University Medical Center to recreate the program in Europe through a center in Scotland.

"After Scotland, I looked around at the Asian culture and I see that human hospitality is so much easier here," says Dunn who is married to a Thai.

This is what Dunn hopes to bring in the P4 billion Asian Hospital, in Muntinlupa. The hospital is being financed through a 50:50 debt equity ratio. It was granted a $600 million loan by the International Finance Corp., the private sector lending arm of the World Bank.

Dunn points out the concept is that of a total healing environment where the hospital is customer focused.

The image of Asian Hospital is that it is going to be a very expensive hospital that will cater only to wealthy patients. Dunn says, however, initially its rates will be 2 percent lower than that of the more expensive Makati Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital.

The hospital is expected to give MMC a run as the country's perceived best hospital for the simple reason that the Makati-based hospital's facilities are over 20 years old and as Dunn points out, numerous changes have occurred in the way hospitals are structured over a period of two decades.

He points out for example that the location of interrelated rooms such as the labor room, the delivery room, the infant care stations should all be in one room instead of in several floors as they are in other hospitals.

"We designed the space plan according to its functionality based on various departments," Dunn says.

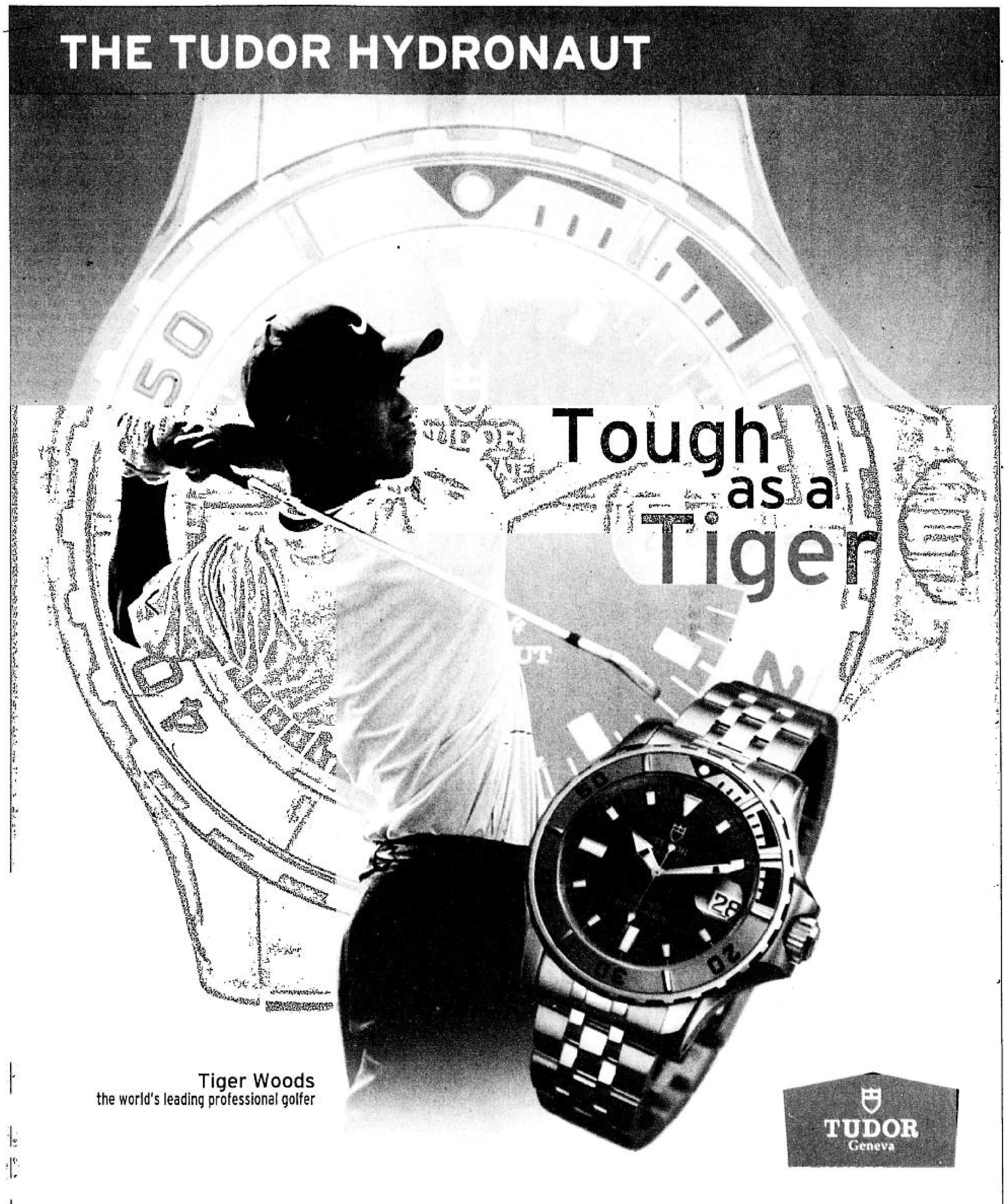
He adds that their healthcare services will be more holistic. He cites for example that a woman about to give birth is not the only one who needs care and education. The caregivers should also be involved in the process. "We will have a prenatal package."

The hospital is actually geared to service the Calabarzon area (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

Based on the research the group undertook before construction, they found out that the No. 1 killer in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia is heart disease, so this will be a major focus of the group.

Dr. Jorge M. Garcia, a Filipino, and one of

CREATING/ C11



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Management challenges in the New Economy

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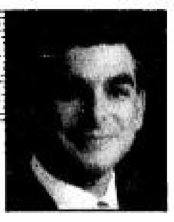
MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II



LET me also quickly emphasize that the New Economy decisively differs from the Old Economy in what resource it regards as truly important. In the Old Economy, physical and financial capital were the most important resources. In the New Economy, it is intellectual capital. It is the power of ideas.

Business Week describes it this way: "Software is an idea, hamburger is a cow." Microsoft has 10 times the market capitalization of McDonalds with one-tenth the number of employees. Hamburgers will still be made in the New Economy, but the financial rewards will go to companies and people who generate ideas.

This has profound implications for the way we run our companies. When assets were physical, shareholders truly owned them. But when the vital assets are people, there can be no true ownership. The best that corporations can do is create an environment that will bring out the best from their people and make them want to stay.

This is not all. It isn't just a matter of people; it is a matter of getting the right people into your organization. In a word, talent.

According to a recent McKinsey survey, the most important resource over the next 20 years will be talent. As demand increases, supply will go down due to changing demographic trends. In the US, demand for bright, talented 35 to 45 year olds will increase by 25 percent, but supply will decrease by 15 percent. This sets the stage for a war for talent.

Significantly, 40 percent of companies surveyed said that they had to forego some growth opportunities because they were "talent-constrained."

For us in the Philippines, the demographics may be different, but the constraints will be as severe. Yes, we do have an abundance of young people, but we are a world apart in "per capita tech skills" from the advanced nations. Our talent pool is therefore not limitless. As we are just beginning our journey into the New Economy, the war for available talent may not yet be that keen. But this will surely intensify. Let us not forget that with globalization, talent—no less than capital—has become increasingly mobile.

We see this phenomenon every day. Skilled labor is already our number one value-added export. Increasingly this may soon be replaced by "tech skilled labor." Our experience in BPI bears this out. Recently, when the head of BPI's IT Group visited New York, he was shocked to learn that there were already 300 "alumni" in the city who came from his department. Before Y2K, they were losing 30 programmers a year to other countries. This accelerated to 70 in 1999 and 150 in 2000.

Despite the tech slowdown, the demand is still there. In the US for example, studies suggest that there will be 1.7 million "extra" IT jobs that will have to be filled from external sources by 2003. Where firms in other countries used to require three years experience as a minimum, they are now hiring people with as little as a year's experience. Multiply this phenomenon by the number of major banks and corporations in the country and you get an idea of the retention challenge that we all face.

To meet this challenge head on, we have to plan better—at the government and company level. Clearly, we have to do better in educating our youth. Which is why we welcome the new initiatives being undertaken by the current administration and civil society to make ICT a major agenda and to upgrade training and education for the information age.

And clearly also, we in the private sector have to do our own planning to prepare our companies for this challenge. For example, a redesign of our old models for our human resources is in order. We have to look at our employees in a new way. We need to develop our people so they can achieve their full potential. And we must learn to keep them.

Gone are the notions of lifetime employment among the new generation. Whereas you or I would have worked in an average of one to three companies by the time we retire, the number for today's young and mobile workforce is more like six or seven. Some quarters believe that if we take this trend to its logical conclusion, then the employee of the future will be more of a consultant who works in numerous different "projects," moving quickly where his or her skills are most valued.

Can modern corporations survive as we know them in the midst of this subtle but clear shift in the balance of power between the employee and the employer? Will future organizations resemble a movie studio model, with investors as producers, managers as directors, and talented employees as actors or free agents, all free to mix and match resources and skills as is fit? Or is this more New Economy exaggeration?

We may not resolve these questions this afternoon, but at least being aware of the relevant questions is a giant step in the right direction.

At Ayala, we recognized the enormity of this challenge early on and have tried to prepare accordingly. Last year, for example, we provided training for 860 of our Group's middle and senior management on the impact that the New Economy would have globally and on our various businesses. The sessions were run by professors from Carnegie Mellon University and focused not only on the breadth of opportunities and issues we would be facing, but more importantly on the change in mindset required of all, and I stress all, executives if we are to fully leverage this transformational technology to the fullest. The very same issues that we will be discussing here today.

Importance of leadership

Finally, I want to draw your attention to a third management concern in the New Economy—and this is the pressing need for more robust leadership of business organizations.

In the United States—which seems to serve as a bellwether for global trends—it is getting really tough to be a CEO nowadays. They get paid well, for sure. But most of the high profile ones do not seem to last more than three or four years. What is going on?

I ponder this question every day. Nobody knows the answer or answers yet, but we do know that the answer is not "business as usual." CEOs are leaders, and leadership is most important in times of chaos and uncertainty.

In the New Economy, the role of the CEO has become even more critical. This means, first, that the CEO has to invest the time to really understand the changes taking place in the world economy. If the leader does not see or believe that changes are afoot, you can hardly expect this from the rest of the organization.

Second, the CEO has to personally lead the change in mindset that is required of the entire organization. All the research is consistent here—if you want large-scale cultural change in an organization, it must be led—visibly—by the CEO. This is why, as one example, Jack Welch has taken the lead in GE's "Destroy Your Business, Grow Your Business Program." He engaged all 160-odd companies of the group in a mission to understand and embrace the New Economy

And third, the CEO needs to develop and then lead the transformation program that virtually every business is going to need. Given the pace of change today, this has to be at the top of the agenda of every corporate leader today.

From this, it should be obvious that the role of the board of directors should evolve as well and must provide support for this needed program of transformation in every organization. No longer will it be sufficient for the board to act only on matters of governance—not only should they evaluate matters of strategy, they should be integral to the creation of strategy.

We try in our group to live by these rules and practice what we preach. Although we have many capable young leaders on the ground working on our various online initiatives, we are not simply closing our eyes and waiting for them to make things happen. We make sure that everyone in the group understands that this effort is being led from the very top and that it has our full support.

And though it may seem obvious, we make sure that all of our decision makers, from myself, the board members, and other senior executives are users of this technology. We believe that the best way to get our people to understand and be convinced of the enabling potential of this technology is for everyone to be a user. It is one thing to listen to a couple of professors, it is quite another to realize just how easy it is to manage your finances online, or book plane tickets, to see the potential ramifications for our businesses.

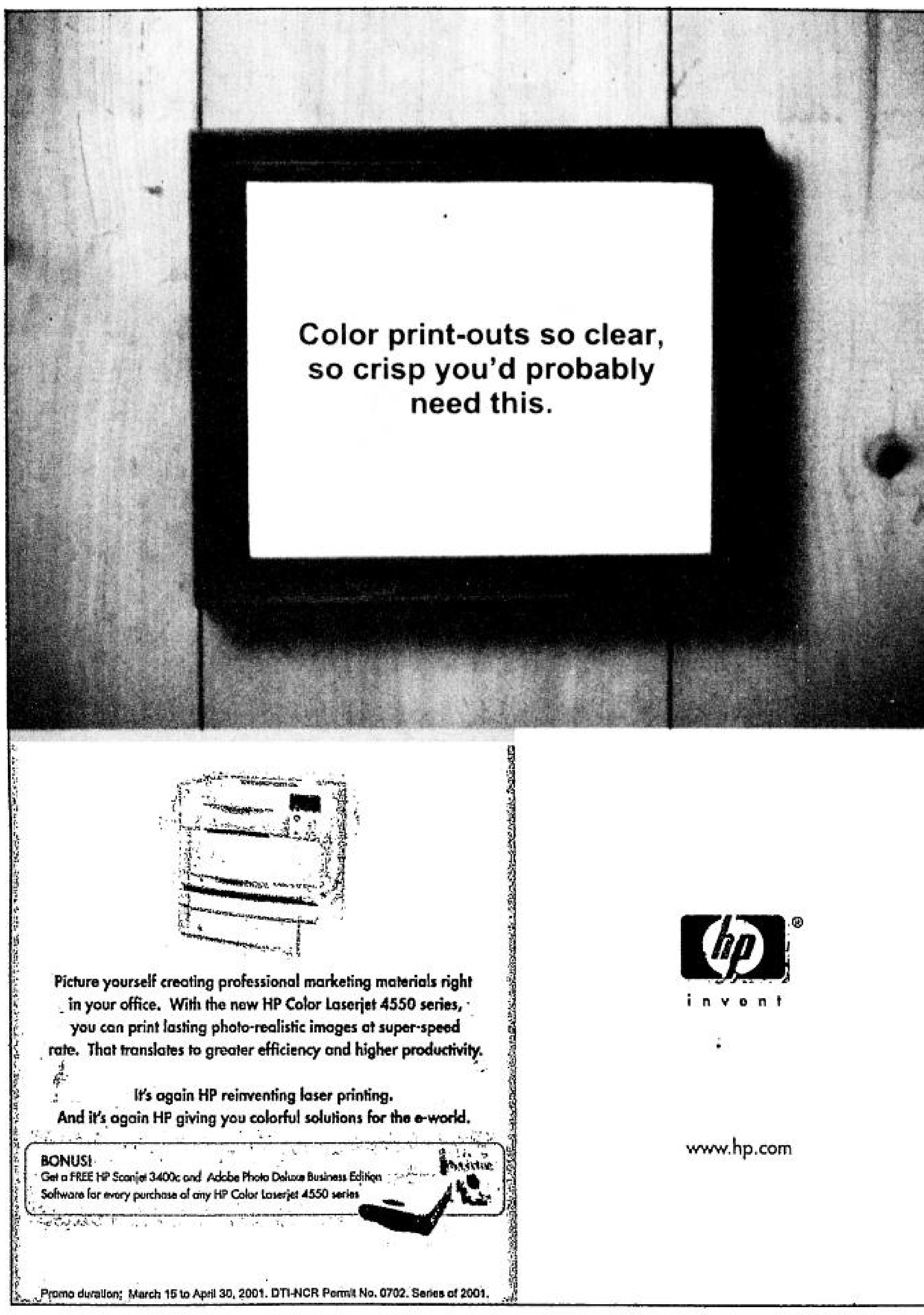
Closing

In closing, I would suggest to you that we need to get our perspectives straight on the Internet phenomenon amidst the travails of the dotcoms and the continued penetration of the Internet into the way we live and do business. We have to try to understand better what is really going on with these enabling technologies, and where the opportunities and challenges really lie.

Today, it is easy to believe e-business will not have a significant impact. The reality is that the Internet is a tremendous tool for cost reduction. It is a tremendous tool for managing customer relationships. And it's a tremendous tool for what used to be called Old Economy companies to apply to our current processes.

Andy Grove, chairman of Intel, recently said that "perhaps the biggest obstacle to building the Internet economy may be our eagerness to build it. We are too impatient to write history, and if it hasn't happened in Internet time, we conclude that it won't happen at all. The dotcom revolution may be over, but the Internet revolution is only beginning." We are looking at a process of transformation that should extend at least over two decades. And we don't

MANAGEMENT/ C11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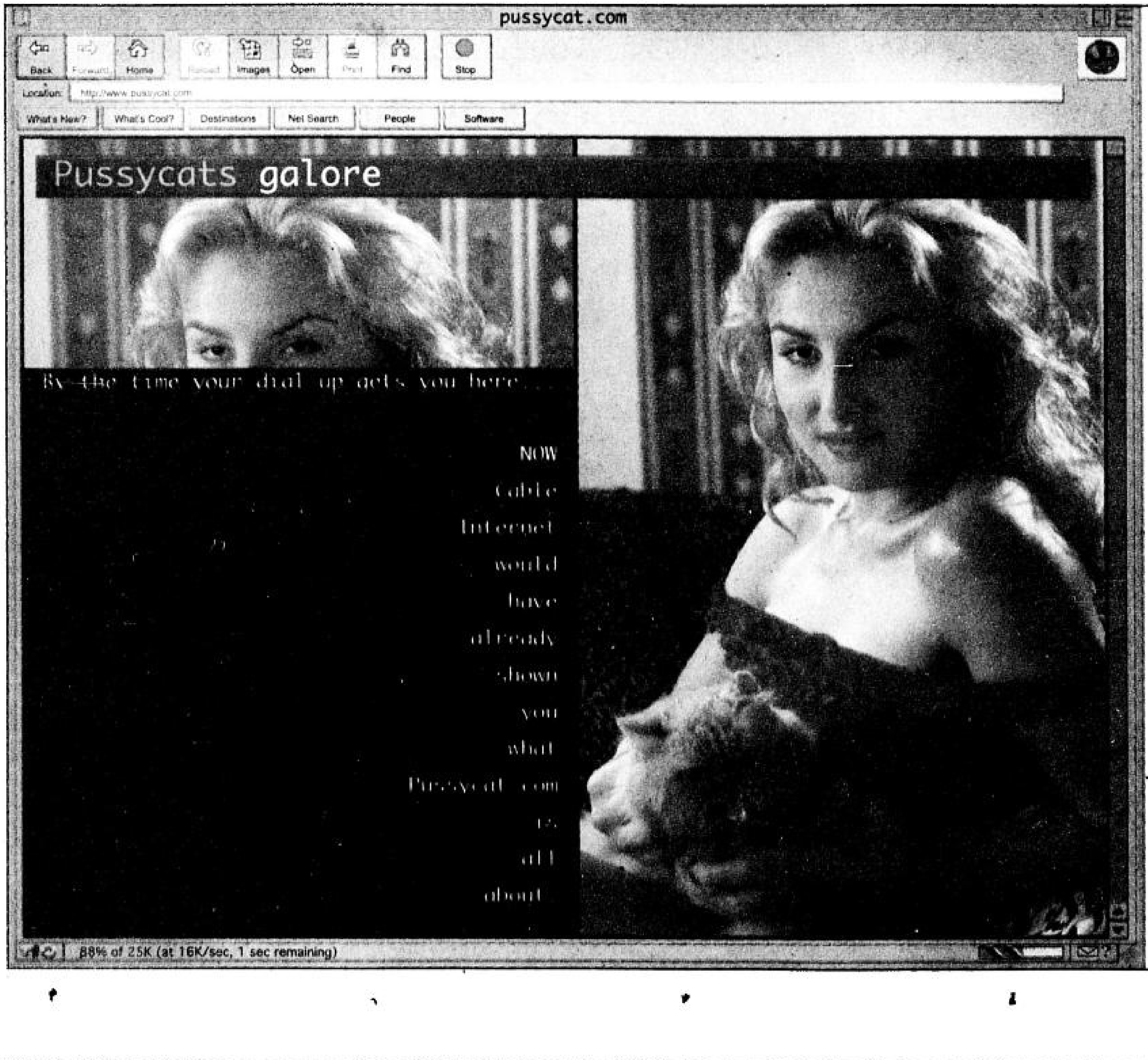
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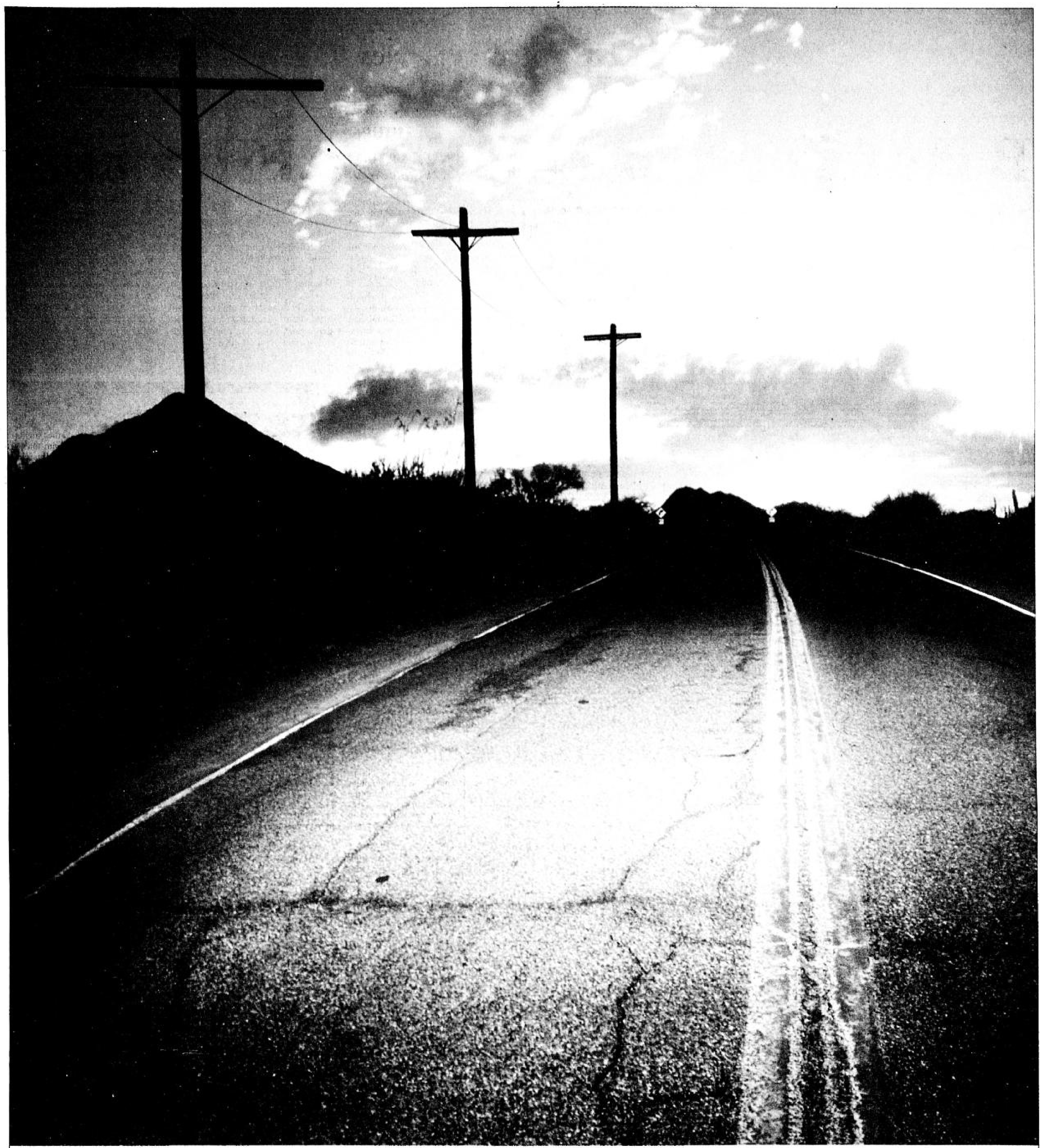

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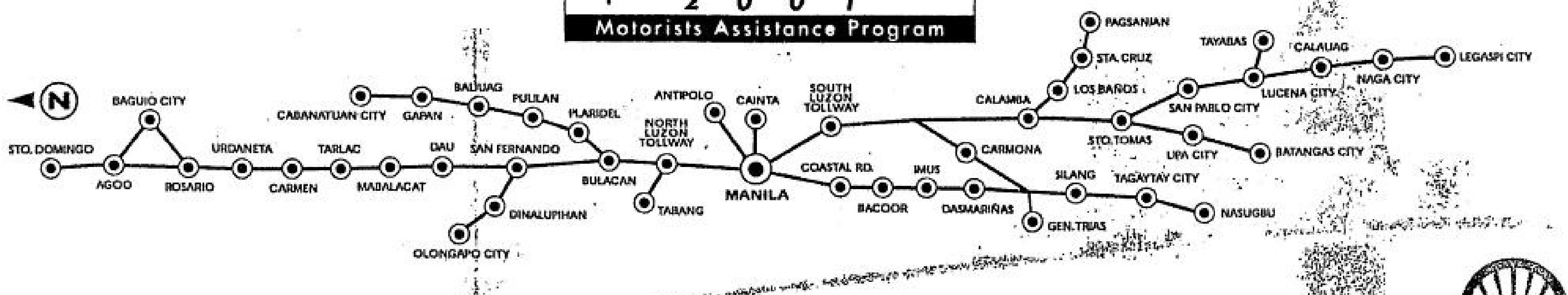
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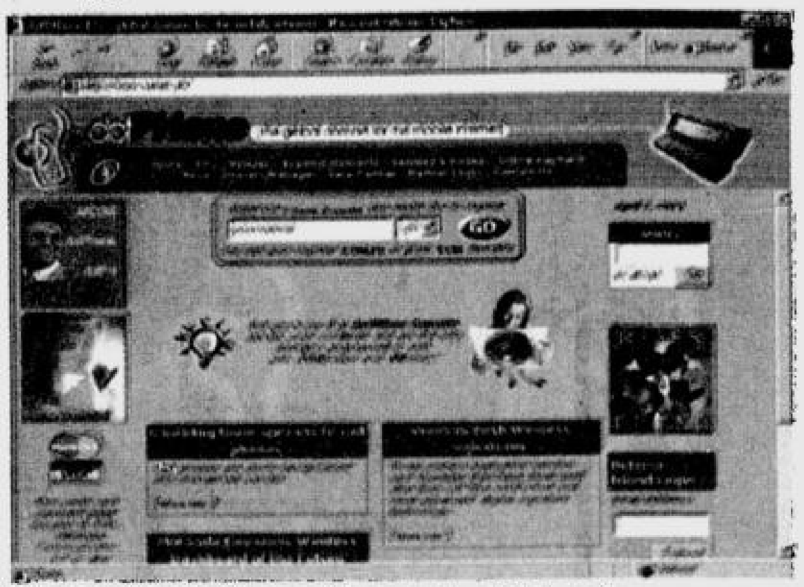
LEO MAGNO, Editor

Body formed to administer .PH domain

By Joey G. Alarilla



AIMING to be the one-stop shop for the .PH domain

THE HEAD of the country's organization of Internet service providers announced last week the formation of a new convenors group that seeks to administer the Philippine country-code top-level domain.

"Effectively, we want to redelegate the administration of the PH domain registry," Philippine Internet Service Organization (Piso) president Fernando Contreras Jr. told the INQUIRER.

In a phone interview shortly after the formation of the new group, he said that he and his fellow convenors would formalize the structure of the Philippine Domain Administration Convenors within the next few days. Contreras said that 18 organizations already support the new group. He said this includes a majority of the board members of Piso and the administrators of the EDU.PH and GOV.PH domains.

Contreras, the country manager of Interdotnet Philippines Inc., acts as PDAC spokesperson. He said that PDAC will be either a foundation or a non-profit education that they hope will become the policymaking body for the PH domain.

DotPH Inc., whose CEO is Internet pioneer Joel Disini, is the current administrator of the PH Domain. The late Jon Postel of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) delegated the ccTLD to Disini in 1989. To put it simply, redelegation means the reassigning of domain registry administration, an act provided for under the global Internet body called the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Contreras said that the petitioners are waiting for a formal response from the Philippine government through the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC). The ITECC is the country's highest information and communications technology policymaking body, with the Department of Trade and Industry as lead agency.

He clarified that they are not waiting for a government ruling, but rather for the formal stand of the government. Contreras stressed that they will go through "due process," approaching ICANN directly to ask for redelegation as a last resort. In effect, redelegation is an impeachment of the current administrator.

Following the controversy over DotPH's alleged mishandling of the PH domain, ITECC held a closed-door meeting presided over by the ITECC Legal Cluster consumer protection subcommittee on Monday. Both Contreras and Disini were present.

In an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER, Disini said that Contreras took a "hardline" stance, asking for nothing less than redelegation. Disini was proposing to revive the "Policy Advisory Board" that DotPH initially presented to Piso last year.

As stated in the proposal, a copy of which Disini e-mailed to the INQUIRER, "PAB will be representative of the local stakeholder community."

"(PAB) will be patterned after ICANN's DNSO (Domain Name Service Organization), which represents the global Domain Stakeholders. The PAB, like the DNSO, will consist of seven constituencies, and like the DNSO, will have three elected representatives from each constituency. We will abide by the Geographical Diversity Requirement of the DNSO. Like the DNSO, the seven constituencies should self-form, and be fairly representative of their constituency (e.g. five trademark lawyers are not representative if there are over 200 trademark lawyers in the Philippines). ICANN has extensive records on how these constituencies self-formed and were recognized by ICANN, so we can and should follow the ICANN example and improve upon their mistakes," the proposal stated.

Contreras, however, said that redelegation is the only solution.

"That (redelegation) is really what has to be done," he stressed. He pointed out that the petition against DotPH raises three issues: transparency, conflict of interest and improper representation.

Contreras said that the formation of PDAC seeks to separate registry policymaking from the registrar. Right now, DotPH oversees policymaking while also handling the registration of PH domain names. At the same time, Disini owns an ISP, the E-Mail Co. and is marketing the flat PH domain as DotPHone.

"How can you have transparency, when ultimately it is Disini who decides?" Contreras said.

He added that the PAB that Disini is proposing addresses complaints against registrants, not the actions of the registrar itself.

"It's more of a shield for him (Disini)," Contreras claimed.

He said after the PDAC is formally organized, the group will immediately launch a membership drive and seek support for redelegation. Asked how long he expects the campaign to continue before the group achieves its goal of redelegation, Contreras cited the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada as an example.

"It's just like People Power after the impeachment trial process broke down," Contreras quipped, saying that the stakeholders in the PH domain have already spoken.

'Connect' instead of buying more computers–DECS

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

EDUCATION officials last week admitted that buying more computers for schools is quite useless if they are not interconnected.

"We will never have enough resources to go around buying computers for each school in the Philippines. It is better if we have enough computers that are wired," declared Education Undersecretary Isagani Cruz.

Cruz said that, for many years, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) allocated a budget to buy more computers. He said, however, that very little was done to wire these computers or even provide schools with Internet access.

Cruz was the guest speaker during the press briefing on Microsoft's Connected Learning Community (CLC) program. Microsoft announced that five more schools have qualified for the CLC program, now on its third year in the Philippines.

The education department is conducting a "mapping exercise" to determine the extent of computer use in thousands of primary and secondary schools in the country.

"We're interested in networking these computers and not in the number of computers used," Cruz explained. "Productivity in the US didn't increase when they were using stand-alone computers. They only improved when the computers were networked."

The Philippine and Japanese governments are currently studying a potential project to interconnect 40,000 schools in the country, according to Cruz.

He added that a private firm has expressed interest in setting up wireless connections to six schools but only if the government uses the company's own satellite infrastructure for interconnectivity. "The government cannot fulfill education of the poorest of the poor without the help of the private sector," Cruz said.

Microsoft last week reported that eight local high schools already have benefited from the CLC program. Microsoft donated networked PCs and one-year free, unlimited Internet access to these schools. Underprivileged and located in remote areas, most of these schools do not even have access to decent telephone service. Some of these schools required very small aperture terminals (VSAT) or dedicated leased lines from third-party providers for their Internet connection. The CLC program began in the Philippines in October 1999.

Meantime, Cruz said that DECS is seriously considering connecting its various regional offices to the main office in Manila.

"Clearly, efforts to wire schools have to start with us. Only three of our director generals currently have access to e-mail," he said.

XP gives us look at how messy the Windows platform was

By Leo Magno

SEATTLE, Washington—By now, 90 percent of desktop PC users should be familiar with the routine. Buy a PC with Windows already preloaded, wait for a year, and watch your Windows version become obsolete, wait another year and watch both your PC and the preloaded Windows version become extinct.

Microsoft Corp. is set to make users go through this routine again with the introduction of Windows XP, the company's biggest overhaul of the Windows operating system since Windows 95. Microsoft chair Bill Gates has grown tired of adopting the release year nomenclature for Windows, releasing Millennium Edition (ME) last year.

This year Windows XP stands for "experience," which, according to Gates, "marks the beginning of the evolution from applications to experiences." Whatever that means. No, we weren't able to ask Gates himself when—on our way to the Microsoft Campus in Redmond—we passed by his huge estate overlooking Lake Washington. And no, we aren't suggesting that a yearly upgrade—no matter how technologically necessary and advantageous—is merely a scheme to squeeze the juice from consumers by locking them into a particular system.

And by the way, Windows XP, launched Feb. 13, was announced a mere 13 months after Windows 2000 was launched.

Windows XP was formerly codenamed "Whistler," and marks the first step toward Microsoft's ".NET" initiative. The company is making its entire strategy revolve around the Internet, a strategy it calls ".NET."

XP comes in two flavors: Home Edition and Professional. Home Edition is the consumer edition of Windows, while Professional is for the business market. Both are built on Windows 2000, which in turn was built around Windows NT. So, the entire Windows XP platform is built around the NT kernel. Later, Whistler servers will be announced, and these will supplant the existing Windows 2000 server editions.

For Microsoft, this represents two things: (1) Being built around Windows 2000/NT, both the desktop and server versions of Windows will become more reliable than the usual 95/98/ME versions which still crash a lot. (2) A complete overhaul of the Windows operating system, from guts to aesthetics (XP's new, simpler and refreshing look is called "Luna"). We hate to say this but the older Windows version you're using now has no place in Microsoft's future. As expected when Windows 2000 started shipping last year, the earlier consumer versions became obsolete, the same way XP is making the 95, 98 and ME extinct.

In short, Microsoft is cleaning its attic by washing away the legacy technology in Windows. XP represents a unified platform for Windows, and is in a way an admission that the previous different Windows versions (95, 98, NT, 2000, ME, CE, PocketPC) weren't fully compatible. No matter how much Microsoft denied it, you simply can't make these different versions play in concert. With XP being built around NT, however, Windows stands to become more reliable, hopefully lessening crashes.

What? Microsoft admits that previous versions of Windows were not stable and not fully compatible? Wow. Mind-boggling.

Still, XP has its merits. At an international briefing at the Bell Harbor Conference Center, journalists braved one-degree temperatures to get a hands-on experience of Office XP and Windows XP. Office and Windows, by the way, are the only two Microsoft product lines that will carry the XP name. All the others, like FrontPage, Outlook and Visio, will carry the 2002 name.

Chris Jones, Microsoft vice president for the Windows client, explained that XP—developed over two years—evolved from the idea that the old Windows was not simple and reliable enough. Also, new technologies such as the use of various digital media are pushing the envelope for operating systems.

"This has been the dream of Microsoft, the convergence of Windows NT technology and the desktop versions with digital and online tasks that have become mainstream today," Jones said.

A quick look at Windows XP shows that the Luna look is more than just aesthetics. It represents a visual cleanup of the old cluttered Windows and how files are organized. XP allows users to hide all those icons in the desktop and be called up again on a context-based system. In other words, XP allows for personalization, the same goal of websites today. The entire system also works like the Web, with a lot of focus on digital media and file sharing over networks. There's even a remote assistance feature à la Timbuktu, where a remote user can take control over another XP system.

"This allows users to know not just whose computer it is but whose experience it is," said Jones.

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Microsoft Windows XP
msn

ARE you experienced?

Microsoft addresses security, reliability issues in Office XP

By Leo Magno

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"We would love to ship with zero bugs but . . .we still crash and it's the worst experience for customers," admitted Microsoft senior vice president Steven Sinofsky in his presentation. "But each Office release is becoming more stable than the previous."

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But then again, why not have a built-in virus scanner, similar to the McAfee anti-virus Microsoft uses for Hotmail attachments?

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Again, John W. Cynic might ask: "Why didn't they think of this before tons of data and resources were damaged by virus attacks?"

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However, despite the gee-whiz collaboration and speech recognition features of Office XP, the security and reliability issues which Microsoft addressed in the latest Office release are of more importance. It shows that, uncharacteristically, Microsoft is admitting the vulnerability of its software and is taking steps to make it more reliable and secure.

Body formed to administer .PH domain

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

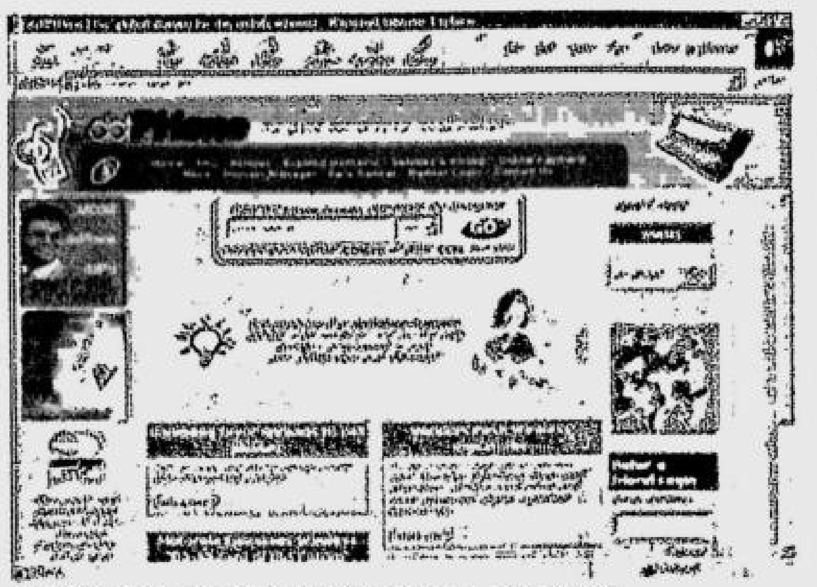
THE HEAD of the country's organization of Internet service providers announced last week the formation of a new convenors group that seeks to administer the Philippine country-code top-level domain.

"Effectively, we want to redelegate the administration of the PH domain registry," Philippine Internet Service Organization (Piso) president Fernando Contreras Jr. told the INQUIRER.

In a phone interview shortly after the formation of the new group, he said that he and his fellow convenors would formalize the structure of the Philippine Domain Administration Convenors within the next few days. Contreras said that 18 organizations already support the new group. He said this includes a majority of the board members of Piso and the administrators of the EDU.PH and GOV. PH domains.

Contreras, the country manager of Interdotnet Philippines Inc., acts as PDAC spokesperson. He said that PDAC will be either a foundation or a non-profit education that they hope will become the policymaking body for the PH domain.

DotPH Inc., whose CEO is Internet pioneer Joel Disini, is the current administrator of the PH Domain. The late Jon Postel of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) delegated the ccTLD to Disini in 1989. To put it simply, redelegation means the reassigning of domain registry administration, an act provided for under the global Internet body called the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).



AIMING to be the one-stop shop for the .PH domain

Contreras said that the petitioners are waiting for a formal response from the Philippine government through the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC). The ITECC is the country's highest information and communications technology policymaking body, with the Department of Trade and Industry as lead agency.

He clarified that they are not waiting for a government ruling, but rather for the formal stand of the government. Contreras stressed that they will go through "due process," approaching ICANN directly to ask for redelegation as a last resort. In effect, redelegation is an impeachment of the current administrator.

Following the controversy over DotPH's alleged mishandling of the PH domain, ITECC held a closed-door meeting presided over by the ITECC Legal Cluster consumer protection subcommittee on Monday. Both Contreras and Disini were present.

In an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER, Disini said that Contreras took a "hardline" stance, asking for nothing less than redelegation. Disini was proposing to revive the "Policy Advisory Board" that DotPH initially presented to Piso last year.

As stated in the proposal, a copy of which Disini e-mailed to the INQUIRER, "PAB will be representative of the local stakeholder community."

"(PAB) will be patterned after ICANN's DNSO (Domain Name Service Organization), which represents the global Domain Stakeholders. The PAB, like the DNSO, will consist of seven constituencies, and like the DNSO, will have three elected representatives from each constituency. We will abide by the Geographical Diversity Requirement of the DNSO. Like the DNSO, the seven constituencies should self-form, and be fairly representative of their constituency (e.g. five trademark lawyers are not representative if there are over 200 trademark lawyers in the Philippines). ICANN has extensive records on how these constituencies self-formed and were recognized by ICANN, so we can and should follow the ICANN example and improve upon their mistakes," the proposal stated.

Contreras, however, said that redelegation is the only solution.

"That (redelegation) is really what has to be done," he stressed. He pointed out that the petition against DotPH raises three issues: transparency, conflict of interest and improper representation.

Contreras said that the formation of PDAC seeks to separate registry policymaking from the registrar. Right now, DotPH oversees policymaking while also handling the registration of PH domain names. At the same time, Disini owns an ISP, the E Mail Co. and is marketing the flat PH domain as DotPHone.

"How can you have transparency, when ultimately it is Disini who decides?" Contreras said.

He added that the PAB that Disini is proposing addresses complaints against registrants, not the actions of the registrar itself.

"It's more of a shield for him (Disini)," Contreras claimed.

He said after the PDAC is formally organized, the group will immediately launch a membership drive and seek support for redelegation. Asked how long he expects the campaign to continue before the group achieves its goal of redelegation, Contreras cited the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada as an example.

"It's just like People Power after the impeachment trial process broke down," Contreras quipped, saying that the stakeholders in the PH domain have already spoken.

'Connect' instead of buying more computers–DECS

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

EDUCATION officials last week admitted that buying more computers for schools is quite useless if they are not interconnected.

"We will never have enough resources to go around buying computers for each school in the Philippines. It is better if we have enough computers that are wired," declared Education Undersecretary Isagani Cruz.

Cruz said that, for many years, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) allocated a budget to buy more computers. He said, however, that very little was done to wire these computers or even provide schools with Internet access.

Cruz was the guest speaker during the press briefing on Microsoft's Connected Learning Community (CLC) program. Microsoft announced that five more schools have qualified for the CLC program, now on its third year in the Philippines

The education department is conducting a "mapping exercise" to determine the extent of computer use in thousands of primary and secondary schools in the country.

"We're interested in networking these computers and not in the number of computers used," Cruz explained. "Productivity in the US didn't increase when they were using stand-alone computers. They only improved when the computers were networked."

The Philippine and Japanese governments are currently studying a potential project to interconnect 40,000 schools in the country, according to Cruz.

He added that a private firm has expressed interest in setting up wireless connections to six schools but only if the government uses the company's own satellite infrastructure for interconnectivity. "The government cannot fulfill education of the poorest of the poor without the help of the private sector," Cruz said.

Microsoft last week reported that eight local high schools already have benefited from the CLC program. Microsoft donated networked PCs and one-year free, unlimited Internet access to these schools. Underprivileged and located in remote areas, most of these schools do not even have access to decent telephone service. Some of these schools required very small aperture terminals (VSAT) or dedicated leased lines from third-party providers for their Internet connection. The CLC program began in the Philippines in October 1999.

Meantime, Cruz said that DECS is seriously considering connecting its various regional offices to the main office in Manila.

"Clearly, efforts to wire schools have to start with us. Only three of our director generals currently have access to e-mail," he said.

XP gives us look at how messy the Windows platform was

BY LEO MAGNO

SEATTLE, Washington—By now, 90 percent of desktop PC users should be familiar with the routine: Buy a PC with Windows already preloaded, wait for a year, and watch your Windows version become obsolete, wait another year and watch both your PC and the preloaded Windows version become extinct.

Microsoft Corp. is set to make users go through this routine again with the introduction of Windows XP, the company's biggest overhaul of the Windows operating system since Windows 95. Microsoft chair Bill Gates has grown tired of adopting the release year nomenclature for Windows, releasing Millennium Edition (ME) last year.

This year Windows XP stands for "experience," which, according to Gates, "marks the beginning of the evolution from applications to experiences." Whatever that means. No, we weren't able to ask Gates himself when—on our way to the Microsoft Campus in Redmond—we passed by his huge estate overlooking Lake Washington. And no, we aren't suggesting that a yearly upgrade—no matter how technologically necessary and advantageous—is merely a scheme to squeeze the juice from consumers by locking them into a particular system.

And by the way, Windows XP, launched Feb. 13, was announced a mere 13 months after Windows 2000 was launched.

Windows XP was formerly codenamed "Whistler," and marks the first step toward Microsoft's ".NET" initiative. The company is making its entire strategy revolve around the Internet, a strategy it calls ".NET."

XP comes in two flavors: Home Edition and Professional. Home Edition is the consumer edition of Windows, while Professional is for the business market. Both are built on Windows 2000, which in turn was built around Windows NT. So, the entire Windows XP platform is built around the NT kernel. Later, Whistler servers will be announced, and these will supplant the existing Windows 2000 server editions.

For Microsoft, this represent two things: (1) Being built around Windows 2000/NT, both the desktop and server versions of Windows will become more reliable than the usual 95/98/ME versions which still crash a lot. (2) A complete overhaul of the Windows operating system, from guts to aesthetics (XP's new, simpler and refreshing look is called "Luna"). We hate to say this but the older Windows version you're using now has no place in Microsoft's future. As expected when Windows 2000 started shipping last year, the earlier consumer versions became obsolete, the same way XP is making the 95, 98 and ME extinct.

In short, Microsoft is cleaning its attic by washing away the legacy technology in Windows. XP represents a unified platform for Windows, and is in a way an admission that the previous different Windows versions (95, 98, NT, 2000, ME, CE, PocketPC) weren't fully compatible. No matter how much Microsoft denied it, you simply can't make these different versions play in concert. With XP being built around NT, however, Windows stands to become more reliable, hopefully lessening crashes.

What? Microsoft admits that previous versions of Windows were not stable and not fully compatible? Wow. Mind-boggling.

Still, XP has its merits. At an international briefing at the Bell Harbor Conference Center, journalists braved one-degree temperatures to get a hands-on experience of Office XP and Windows XP. Office and Windows, by the way, are the only two Microsoft product lines that will carry the XP name. All the others, like FrontPage, Outlook and Visio, will carry the 2002 name.

Chris Jones, Microsoft vice president for the Windows client, explained that XP—developed over two years—evolved from the idea that the old Windows was not simple and reliable enough. Also, new technologies such as the use of various digital media are pushing the envelope for operating systems.

"This has been the dream of Microsoft, the convergence of Windows NT technology and the desktop versions with digital and online tasks that have become mainstream today," Jones said.

A quick look at Windows XP shows that the Luna look is more than just aesthetics. It represents a visual cleanup of the old cluttered Windows and how files are organized. XP allows users to hide all those icons in the desktop and be called up again on a context-based system. In other words, XP allows for personalization, the same goal of websites today. The entire system also works like the Web, with a lot of focus on digital media and file sharing over networks. There's even a remote assistance feature à la Timbuktu, where a remote user can take control over another XP system.

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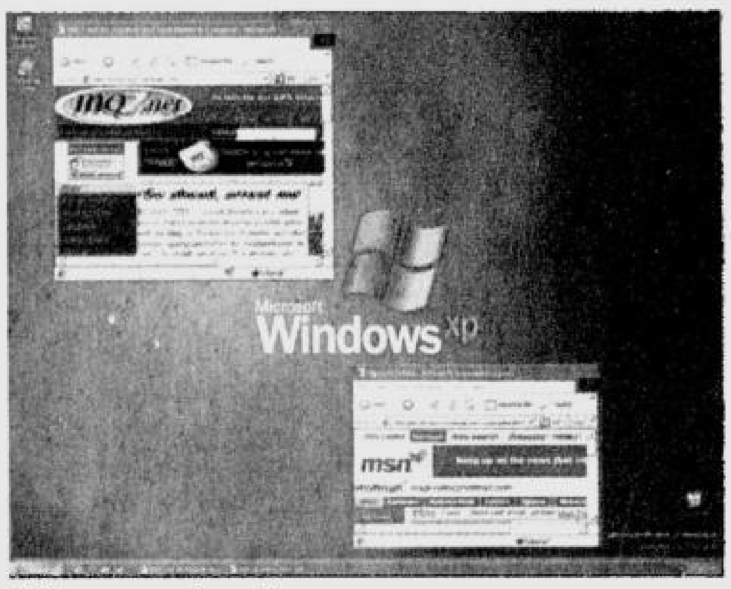

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TOTAL BATAAN TERMINAL INAUGURATION

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

Service starts with world-class storage facilities

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

HOW DO you attract motorists to your gas station? The answer is simple if you were one of the established "Big 3" oil companies in the Philippines. Just put up a big logo, and because of decades of deep-rooted buying habits, business will come rolling in.

The situation is quite different for new entries in the local oil industry. Attracting enough customers to maintain the business is one thing. Keeping them loyal to your station is another. New players must constantly search for ways to capture their own share of the market.

It is precisely this situation that Total Petroleum Philippines finds itself in at the moment. Though it certainly finds the challenges posed by that of the Philippine socioeconomic environment and the established oil companies daunting, it realizes these conditions and a free-market deregulated oil industry as the perfect breeding grounds for a one-of-a-kind service that lingers in the people's consciousness.

Though motorists may surmise Total's service to begin at any of its 27 service stations in Luzon, the actual start of the service chain begins where it all comes from—at the oil terminal. It is at the oil terminal where the fuel supply originates and, for Total, where fuel quality also begins.

TPPC's newly constructed oil terminal along the picturesque shoreline of Mariveles in Bataan is an example of a new market player planning ahead by building big, and building good. It can already satisfy the present demands of Total customers, which account for 2 percent of the oil consumer market in the country. The US$20-million terminal, however, can handle TPPC's plan within the next five years of supplying up to 5 percent of the country's oil demands.

TPPC rented 9 hectares of the 22-hectare lot on a long-term, 25-year lease. The present total tank capacity of the first tank farm is 220,000 barrels (five tanks, 32 million liters). Its jetty—half a kilometer long and 7.5 meters high—can receive all oil products at a rate of 500,000 liters per hour and can accommodate vessels of up to 30,000 deadweight tons or with draft capacities of 10.5 meters.

What would be more remarkable about the Total Bataan terminal are its provisions for further expansion and safety. Chito Poblete, TPPC operations engineering manager, discloses that work is underway for the construction of a second tank farm. "We can still accommodate another 380,000 barrels in the second tank farm," he says. Two tanks have already been set up in the second farm.

The construction of the Total Bataan oil terminal formally started in 1997, and was just completed this February.

TPPC president and managing director Jeff Attwood reveals the importance of the Bataan terminal in Total's overall plan for the Philippines. "Over the coming years (parent company) TotalFinaElf will concentrate on the development of a competitive supply chain for fuels…The next step for TPPC will be to further consolidate its supply chain in Luzon. The Mariveles terminal allows consumers a new alternative—the importation of refined products purchased on the international markets."

World-class standards of safety

As much as TPPC officials would like to boast the quality of the fuels (fuel oil, diesel, unleaded gasoline, unleaded regular gasoline) being stored and at times

SERVICE/ C7

THE BATAAN terminal's main administration building also houses the centralized control room for storing, loading and unloading oil products

TotalFinaElf (TFE): The parent company

- Formed in 1999 by the merger of Total, S.A. (founded in 1924 in France), Belgian petrochemicals giant Fina, and Elf Aquitaine.
- TFE is one of the world's five largest oil and gas companies, and the largest in Europe. It operates 20,000 service stations in more than 100 countries, with a workforce of over 130,000 employees.
- Activities cover both upstream and downstream areas of the oil industry ranging from exploration, development and production of crude oil and gas, refining and marketing of petroleum products.
- Key areas of upstream operations are in Middle East; the North Sea; the Far East; Latin America; and Africa. In downstream operations TFE holds solid positions in Europe and Africa and is expanding in strong growth regions in Asia and the Mediterranean rim. Affiliates are in 17 downstream operations all over Asia.
- Product lines include: gasoline and diesel engine fuels; aviation fuel; industrial fuel for power generation and manufacturing; lubricants; liquefied petroleum gas and specialty chemicals for industrial customers.
- Other related subsidiaries of TotalFinaElf operating in Manila include Atofina Southeast Asia Ltd. and Sigma Coatings.

Total Petroleum Philippines Corporation (TPPC)

- Established 1997, TPPC has a targeted investment of US$130 million in its first five years of operations.
- 100 stations are planned by 2003.
- TPPC now sells some 400 products ranging from motor fuels to heavy fuels to lubricants developed at the European Technical and Research Center in Normandy, France.
- TPPC comprises 120 full-time, permanent employees—only four of which are non-Filipino.

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on the inauguration of its **Bataan Oil Depot and Terminal**

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TOTAL SERVICE STATIONS

Bright lights, wide spaces, ready smiles

"BONJOUR, madame! Bonjour monsieur! Welcome to Total. May we help you?"

You can't miss it. Though competition can boast of thousands of gas stations scattered throughout the country, it would be difficult not to notice any of Total's 26 service stations. It's the only gas station in the Philippines that greets you in French. Its products' names are in French (noticed "lubrifiants?"). Its shop is called La Boutique. Almost everything about it is French, even the way its name should be pronounced (To-tahl, the stress on the second syllable).

The wonderful thing about it is that Filipino customers feel immediately at home in a Total station. The moment one parks his or her vehicle at any of the fueling stations, the warmth of the staff radiates like the welcoming bright lights illuminating the entire establishment.

The attendants' offers of service are consistent, persistent but not irritating. They are alert and crisp in their actions, their movements efficient. "Would you like the oil checked, sir? Would you want your windshields washed? How about a radiator check?"

You never have to ask for such service. It is served on you on a red-and-white platter. All you have to do is say "yes, please" or "no, thanks." Oh, and they do speak Filipino when you need them to do so.

It's not just the bright lights and the smart attendants that attract motorists to Total. It's the whole spectrum of services that characterize today's full-service, 24-hour stations. It's just that in Total they do everything with gusto.

Total Petroleum Philippines Corp. maintains that once you've been in one of its stations, you've virtually seen all of them. The same layout and the same standards of service are followed in one Total station to the next. All stations must have:

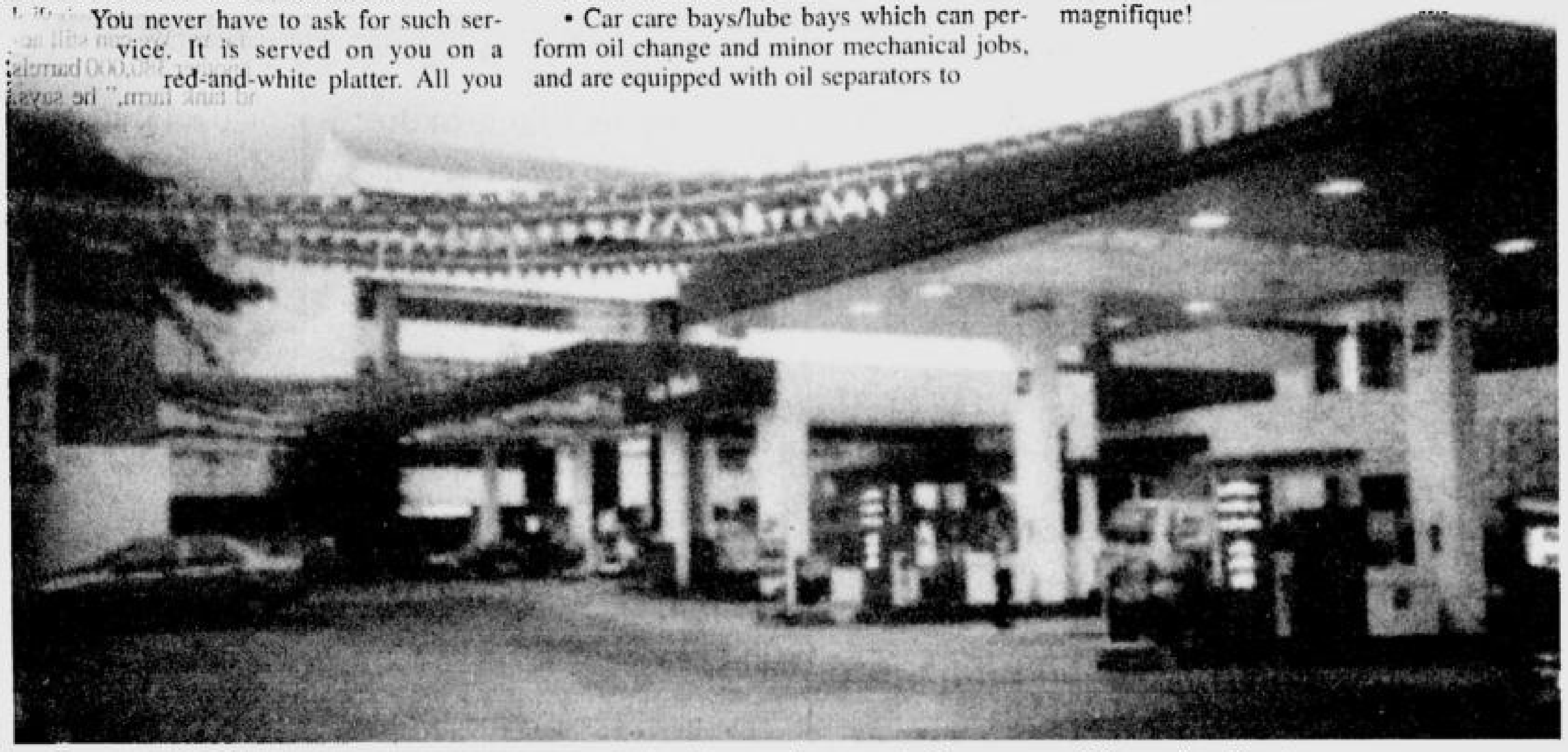
- Clean, air-conditioned, automated wash rooms with 24-hour running water and a steady supply of soap and toilet paper;
- The convenience store La Boutique offering snacks, refreshment, and a varied line of motorists' needs such as car accessories, films, magazines, and even personal care products;
- Car wash bays equipped with complete car wash facilities for cars and trucks, and;
- Car care bays/lube bays which can perform oil change and minor mechanical jobs, and are equipped with oil separators to ensure proper disposal of oil byproducts.

Furthermore, in Total, you will notice the absence of the black, oily, slippery muck characterizing the grounds of many of the more established service stations. All Total outlets are required to observe the strictest standards for environmentally friendly materials and equipment in able to provide customers clean and safe service.

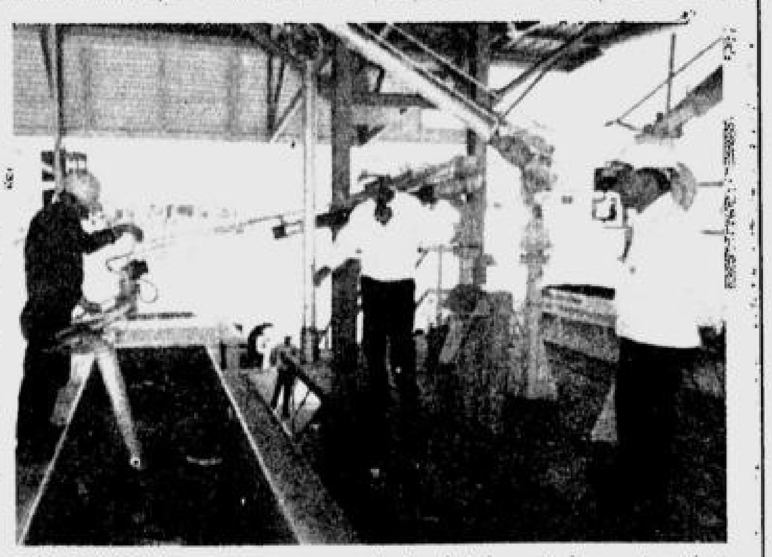
For example, all Total stations use fiberglass-coated storage tanks. Though these may be 25 percent more expensive than the usual steel tanks, fiberglass-coated tanks are cleaner, stronger and more leak-resistant. Even the pipes are made of flexible, special plastic material to prevent leaks.

TPPC officials stress that it intends to keep its service stations a showcase of a clean environment and that classic French flair for friendly service and style—even if a lot more Total service stations are planned to be established between now and 2003. TPPC plans to build 20 stations yearly.

What? More Total stations in the neighborhood soon? C'est magnifique!



THE TOTAL Kamagong service station in Makati is unique in that it has two frontages--in Kamagong and Metropolitan Streets.



THE BULK filling gantry uses an electronic telemetering system that controls the flow of loading into tank trucks.

Service starts . . .

(From page C6)

being blended (the jetty has its own inline blender), the safety systems likewise become a source of pride and security.

"We are maintaining expensive, world-class safety and emergency facilities and systems we are hoping we will never use," Poblete quips.

Poblete describes that whenever any of the terminal's two 1,500-gallon-per-minute fuel pumps are open, the fire pumps are automatically on standby as well. When pressure drops in the pipelines, the fire pumps automatically start. All its tanks are surrounded with sprinkler systems. The diesel and gasoline tanks are equipped with base foam injection facilities.

Indeed, the entire oil pipeline network crisscrossing the terminal is accompanied by almost an equal number of pipes that supply fire-retardant material.

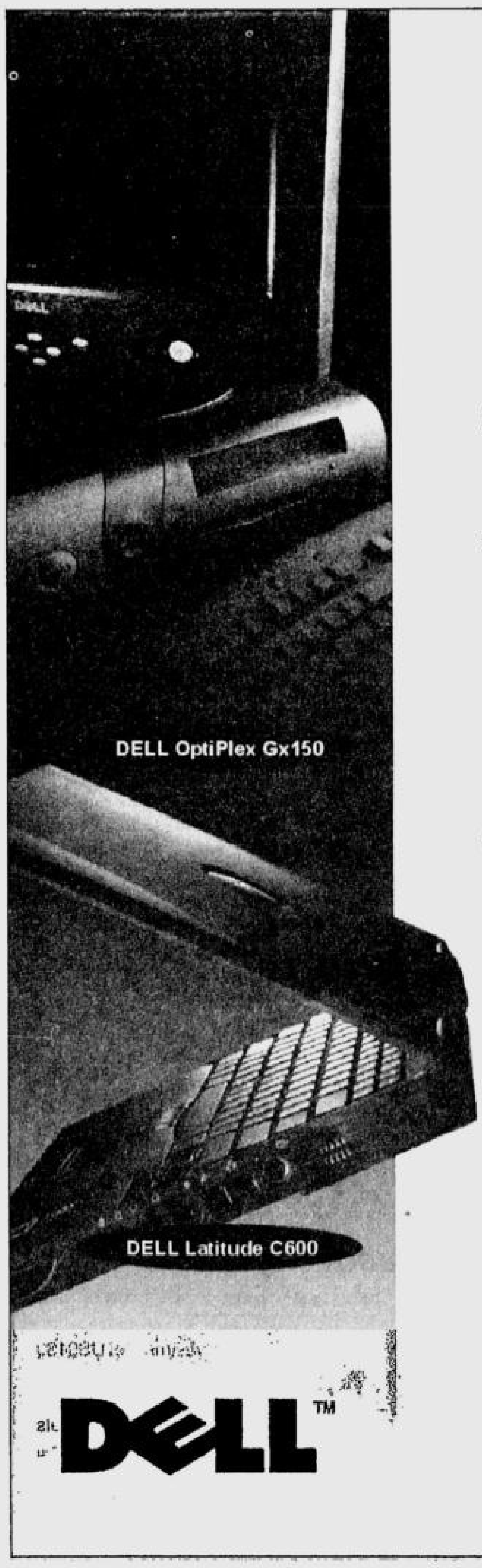
"Eliminate any one of the three elements of the fire triangle—fuel, oxygen, and ignition—and there will be no fire," explains Poblete. "The base foam injected in the tanks eliminates the oxygen. To eliminate the ignition element, we have enforced strict standards and rules in the facilities."

Such rules include the ban on the use of lighters and matches, even cellular phones, outside the terminal's administration building. All the fuel trucks contracted by Total are required for inspection every six months to ensure all electrical systems of the vehicles are in order.

The jetty is elevated to a height such that it could clear the so-called "Hundred Year" waves that the mouth of Manila Bay is infamous for producing during the monsoon season. "Our jetty meets international standards, specifically British standards," Poblete says. In case of oil spills, the terminal is equipped with a British-purchased oil spill control boom skimmer that could contain the oil spill of a tanker equivalent to the length of the jetty.

All fuel loading, from the barges to the tank farms to

SERVICE/ C8



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Service starts . . .

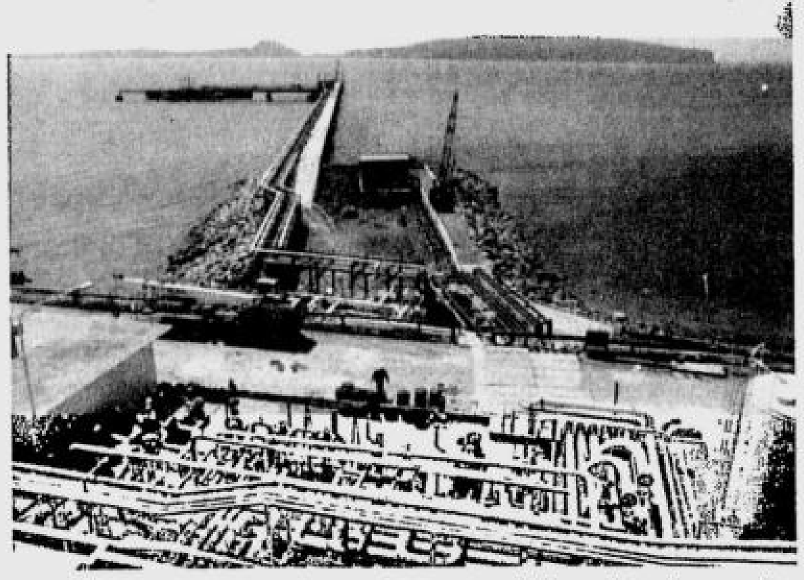
(From page C7)

the fuel trucks, are strictly monitored in a centralized room using computers and state-of-the-art monitoring equipment. The bulk filling gantry, for example, uses an electronic telemetering system that controls the flow of loading into tank trucks. The entire gantry is grounded to prevent static electricity from being produced.

TPPC officials believe the terminal is ready to meet the highest international standards of the industry. "We are targeting ISO 9000 certification by the end of 2001 to ensure that the terminal maintains international standards of quality and safety," Poblete discloses.

Poblete also believes having a world-class storage facility is one important step in realizing TPPC's vision to be the oil company in the Philippines which cares the most for its customers. "Logistics is the key to gain market leadership. We now have the proper storage facility to supply the Philippine market."

Plans are underway to complement the Bataan terminal with a main oil depot in Manila.



THE JETTY is 500 meters long and 7.5 meters high, and sturdy enough to withstand the "Hundred Year" waves

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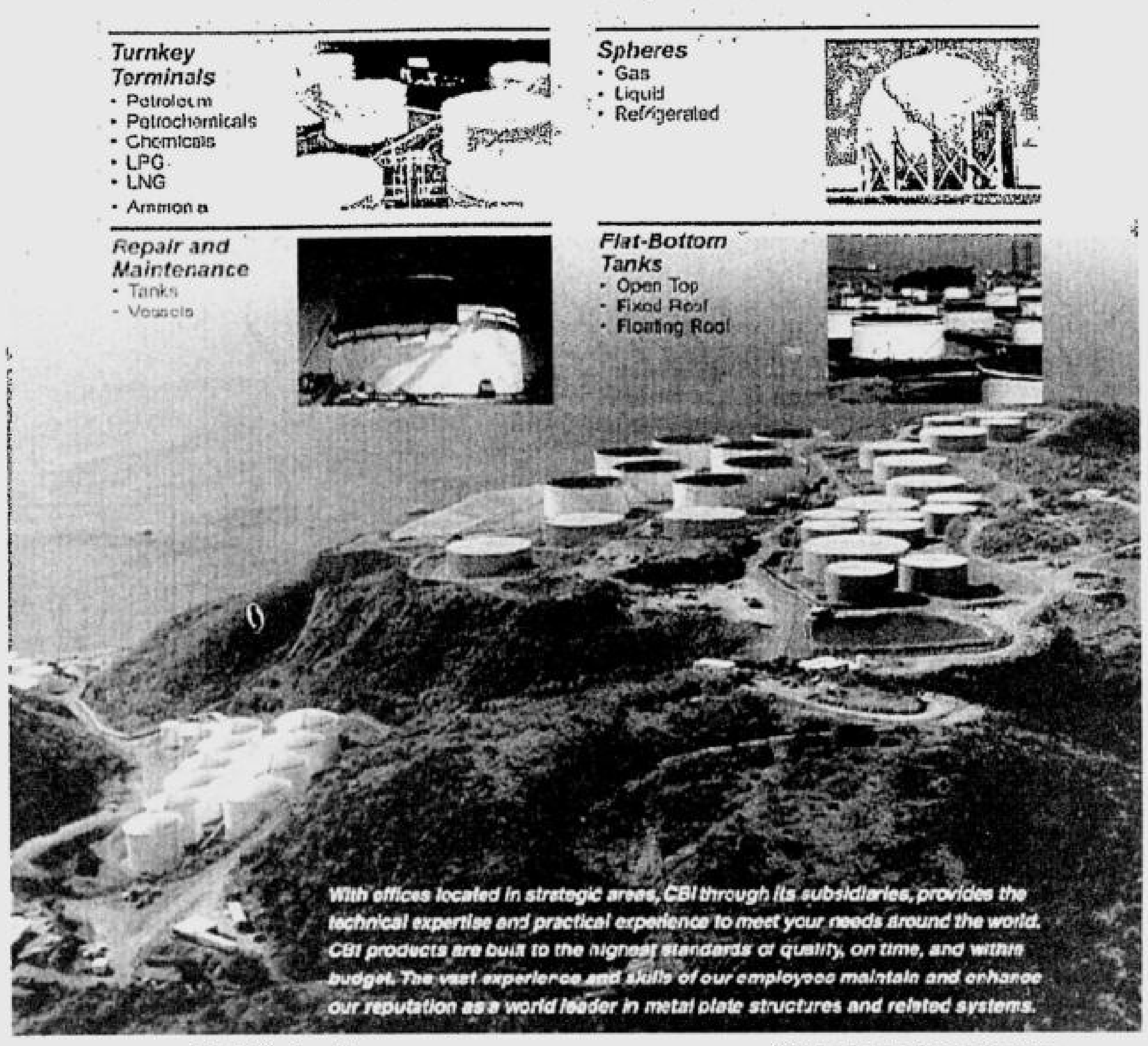

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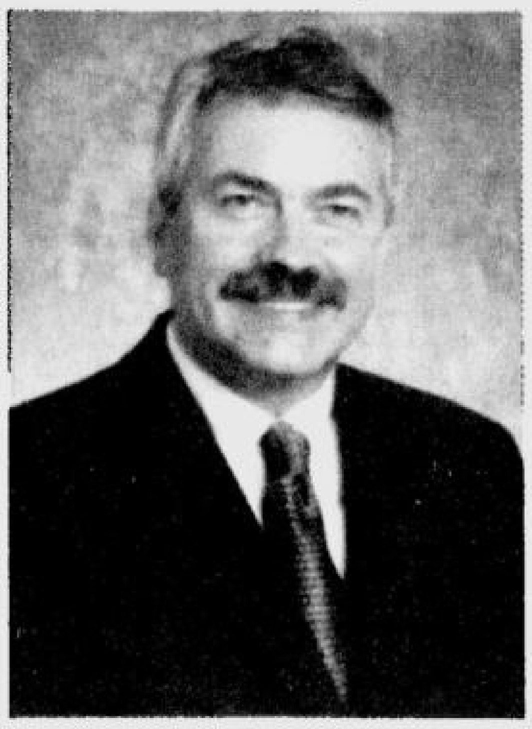
A big lift from a new leader

THE SUCCESSION of Total Petroleum Philippines Corporation's (TPPC) new president and managing director Jeff Attwood, from immediate past president Jean-Jacques Jung, comes at an interesting time in both the company's history and in the country's socioeconomic and political situation.

TPPC was born in a time of financial uncertainty in the Philippines. But it was an exciting time, nevertheless. For the first time in nearly three decades, the industry was again open for some real competition under a deregulated environment. Through sound management and innovative marketing strategies, Total thrived under adverse conditions and has become an "emerging major player" in the local oil industry. Attwood comes in at a time when the company is poised to move full throttle forward in its plans for further activities to capture a larger market share of the industry.



ATTWOOD: 'TPPC prides itself on the quality of its workforce'

As TPPC inaugurates its Bataan oil terminal, Attwood reveals his sentiments about the fast-rising oil firm.

On the people of TPPC:

"TPPC prides itself on the quality of its workforce. It is a young team and extremely well educated. What sets our employees apart is their enormous enthusiasm, their ability to come up with new and innovative ideas plus the ambition to deliver the very best in service standards. Most see TPPC as their long-term employer.

"The company's commitment to training and career development is genuine. During 2000, TPPC carried out over 3820 man days of training; ranging from computer sciences to languages, from technical issues to commercial skills. This represents an average of some 30 days per employee."

On the corporate mission/ philosophy:

"TotalFinaElf (TPPC's parent company) aims to add shareholder value and create employment, whilst, at the same time, maintain a genuine concern for the well-being of all other stakeholders. These other stakeholders are the members of the communities we work with, governments and NGOs, and all business partners, customers and suppliers worldwide.

"TFE encourages the cross-fertilization of ideas, experience and expertise. However, the main thrust will always center on the employment of local, well-trained people.

On the future plans of TPPC:

"In terms of lubricants we are continuing to work on the transfer of the blending of our finished products (currently carried out at the Group's two blending plants in Singapore) to the Philippines. The LPG business will continue to develop using TFE's 15-percent shareholding in Shell Gas Eastern's importation and storage facility at Batangas."

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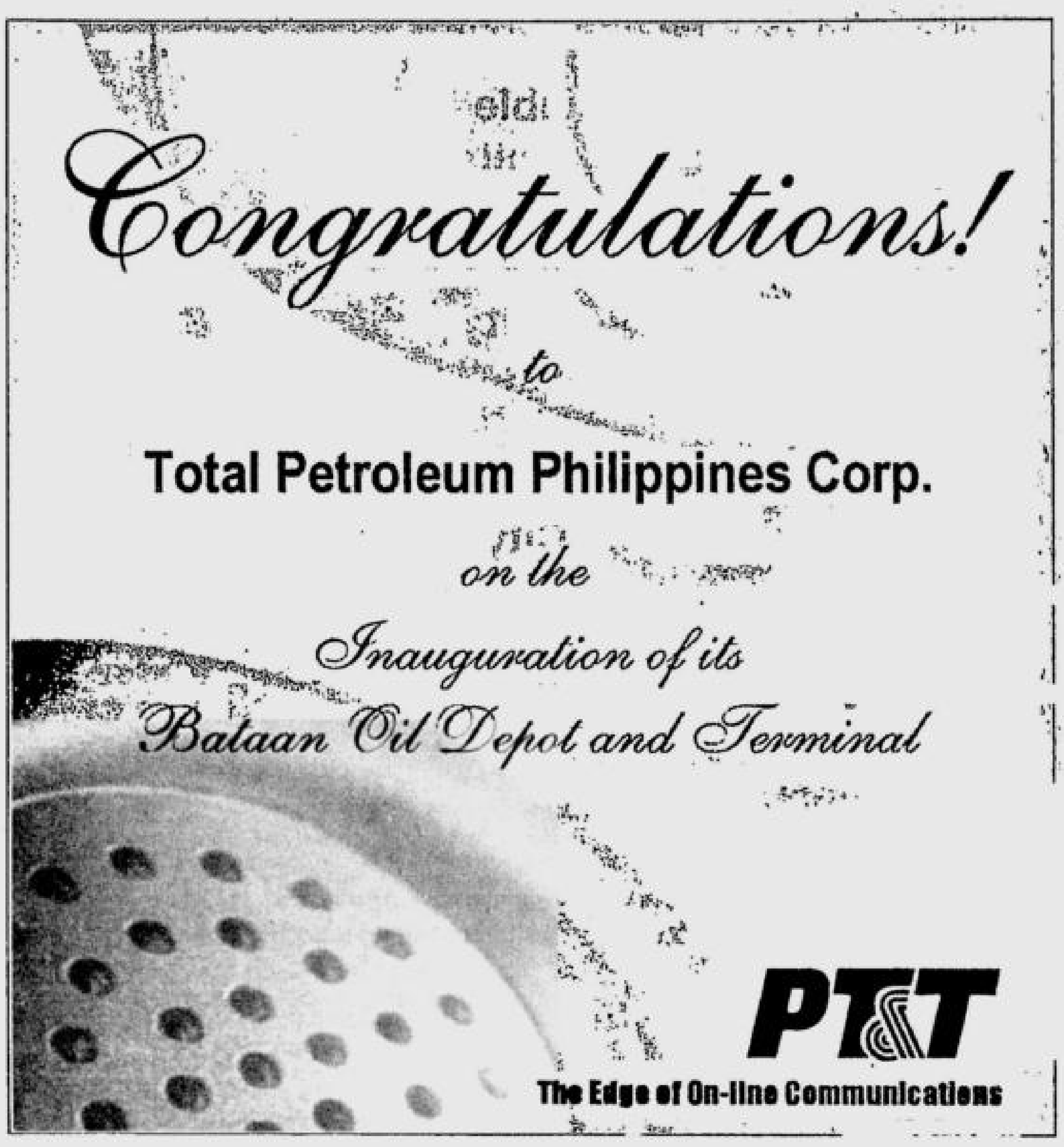

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Another way to nurse firms back to health

(From page C1)

recovery plan because he must consult the receiver in every step.

Another way: Debtor-in-possession

Compare that jam with the way failing firms are handled in the United States. Many of them turn to Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Act. The debtor remains in control of the company. He is called the "debtor in possession." A trustee is appointed only in exceptional cases.

What are the advantages of this scheme?

"Since the debtor remains in control of the business, creditors are allowed to negotiate with the debtors," say the authors. This is "flexible enough to encourage deal-making, thus minimizing the need to resort to cram-down compulsions."

The debtor maintains some bargaining position for assuring the survival of his stockholder interests. He can threaten to liquidate. At the same time, the creditors can press the debtor to accommodate their plans. They can threaten to take absolute priority over him.

In this case, there is a more even balance of power, a more encouraging arena for deal-making. It will also be easier for creditors to deal with the debtors they have known before.

Preventing fraud

The Debtor-in-Possession principle can be abused. Some firms may invoke it for fraud. For example, a debtor may file for rehabilitation only to evade payments to creditors. Inept directors and officials may remain in control of the company.

The four authors suggest the following steps to prevent abuse of the debtor-in-possession principle.

1. There should be a special court for rehabilitation petitions. This will allow the court to develop the needed expertise in the field. The judges will then be able to spot fishy petitions.

2. Adopt the exception found in the US Bankruptcy Act. When there is clear evidence of dishonesty or sheer incompetence, the debtor will be divested of his power. The court then appoints a trustee.

3. How should the court determine whether or not to appoint a trustee? The court should balance public interest with the creditors' interest via some kind of cost-benefit analysis.

Appointing a trustee is an exception to the rule. The costs of the appointment should not be higher than the value of such protection.

4. Those who submit fraudulent rehabilitation petitions must be punished.

5. If a troubled firm applies for rehabilitation for a second time, the court should automatically appoint a trustee.

Management . . .

(From page C2)

know what further changes and surprises will unfold.

Philippine companies must brace themselves for the challenge of transition into the New Economy—if we are to be in the game at all. And we can do this best if our boards, our CEOs and our managers prepare our organizations now for the challenge of using this enabling technology.

Certain issues and concerns stand high in this agenda of transformation, and ironically, these are all very "old economy" themes: the need for a clear vision, the importance of people and intellectual capital, the value of leadership, and the need to be grounded on strong values and cultures.

It seems that today we are confronted by more changes, more challenges and more opportunities than we can handle in one lifetime. But times of turbulence and transformation have always been part of the history of business and industry. And the great economic transformations have always been the result of acts of daring, imagination and will.

So I will bravely say before this gathering, let us embrace the challenges of the New Economy. Let us confront the "insurmountable opportunities." And let us dare to seize the rewards that come to those who seek the new world.

(This article contains the keynote address delivered by the author, who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of Ayala Corp., at the 6th Annual MAP Management Conference on 20 March 2001 at the Dusit Hotel. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

Creating hospitality . . .

(From page C1)

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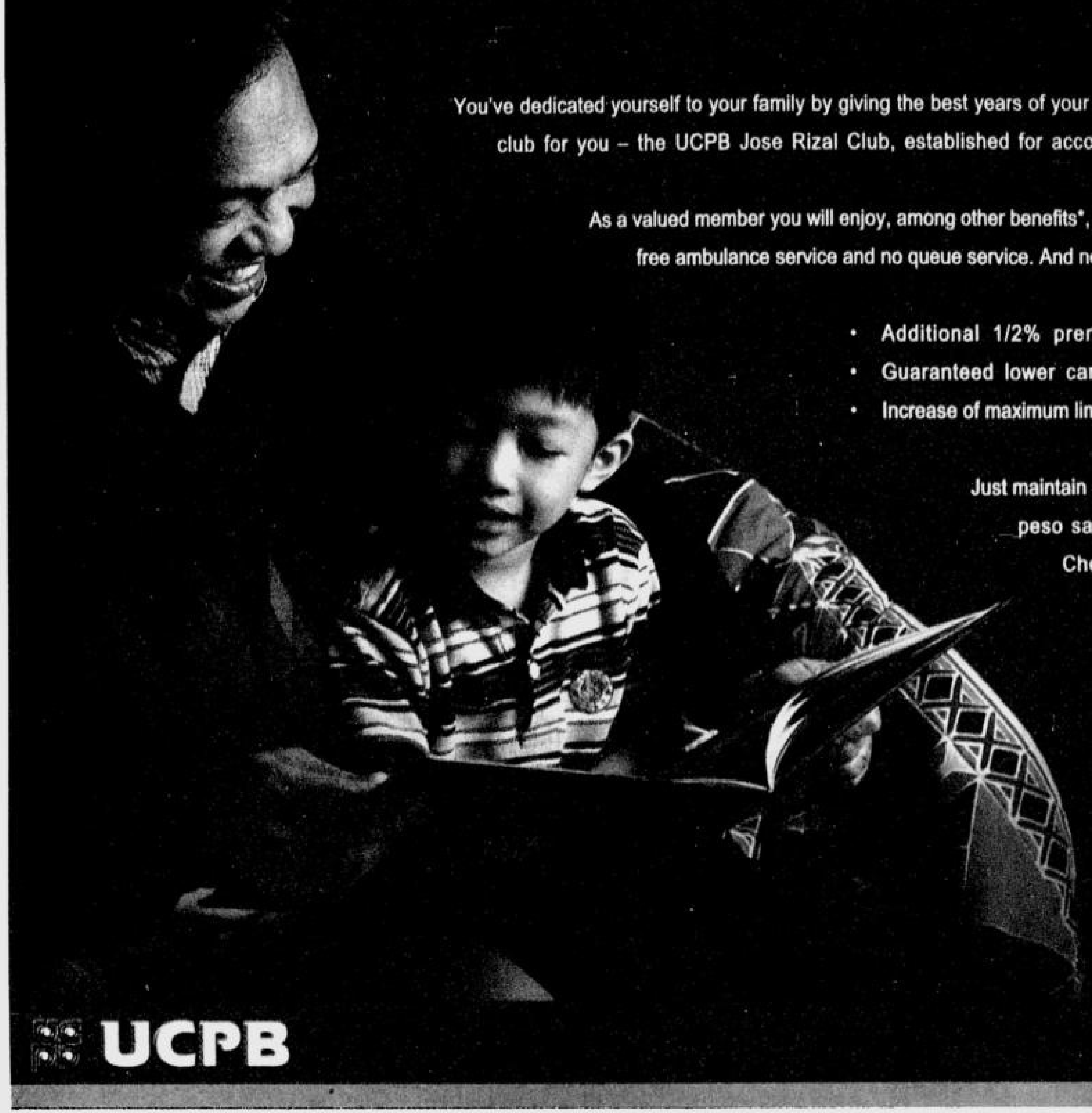

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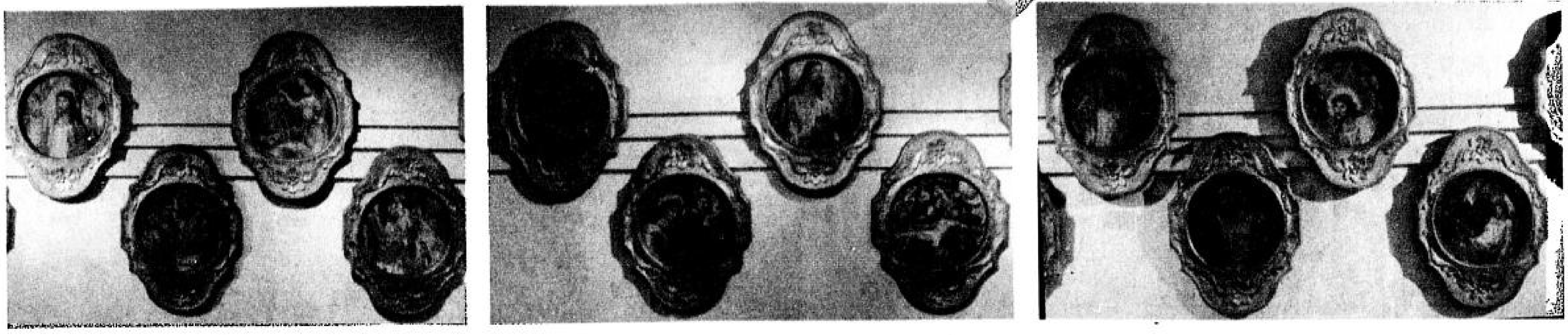


"THE STATIONS of the Cross": Exact reproduction of folk art one sees in ancient churches

A Filipino painter's postmodern take on the Passion

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

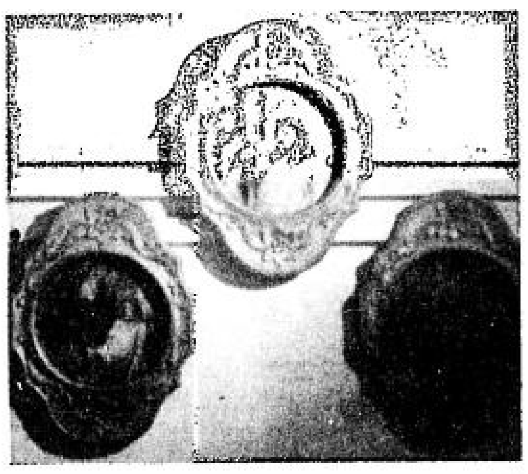
THE PASSION of Christ has been a favorite subject of the arts through two millenniums, from paintings to sculptures, *cenaculos* to oratorios, films, poems, novels.

Painter Fernando Sena has been tackling the subject in an annual show for three years now. The Lenten exhibit of his icon paintings, titled "Semana Sena III," runs in Asia Art Gallery at the Shangri-La Plaza until tomorrow, and in Gallery 139 at The Artwalk in SM Megamall until April 17.

This is a postmodern take on Philippine folk art one finds in ancient churches, with quotations from Western religious art, such as the gold of Russian iconography, the elaborate framing in carved wood and gold paint, the primitivism of the Low Renaissance.

What's more, it's trompe l'oeil duplicating the

A FILIPINO/ p.D4



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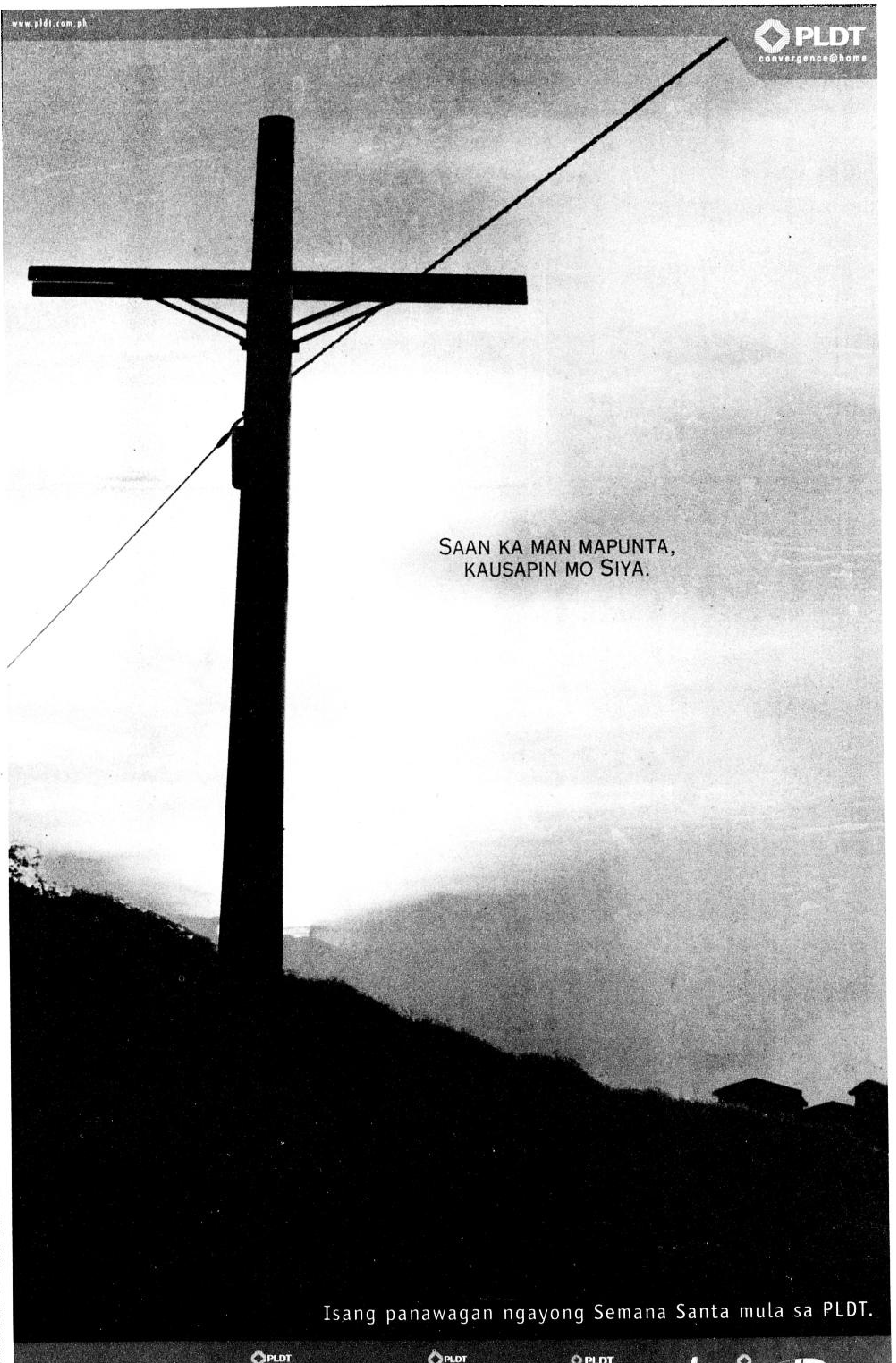

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An adman's art

The art director of Campaigns & Grey tests the perilous waters of art

THE ADVERTISING agency is one of the places teeming with talents. A place where ideas flow on demand. Through the years, very few extremely talented Filipino artist-art directors have left this high-paying, high-pressure job for the unpredictable, yet freer life of a full-time painter. But Chito Maravilla is testing the waters.

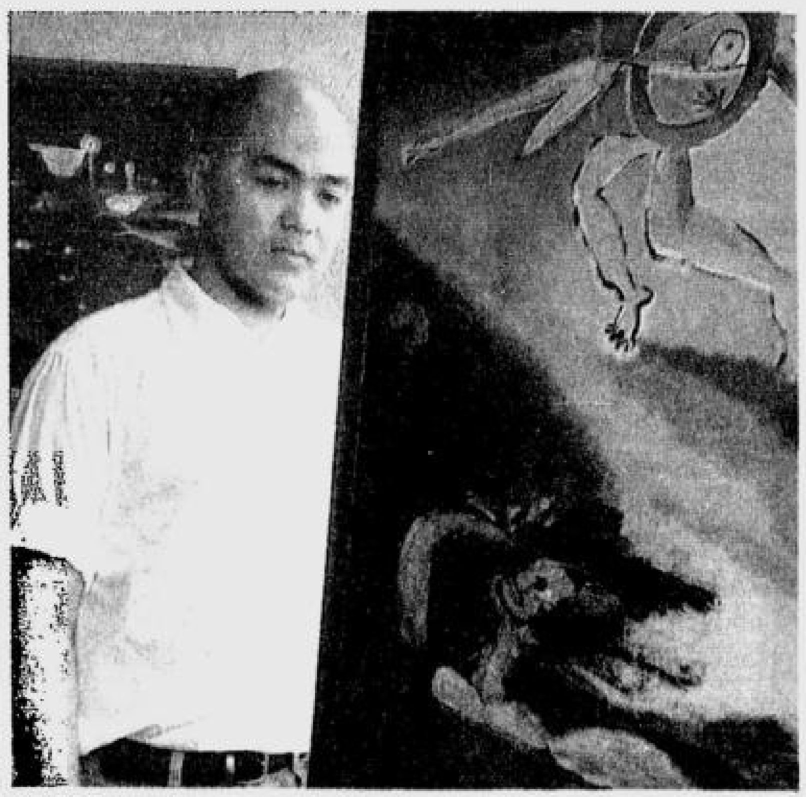
Chito was born in Manila in 1965. He showed an early interest in art—he started drawing at the age of 4. From then on, his supportive parents would enroll him in art classes. By the time he was 10 years old, Chito had already won several art contests.

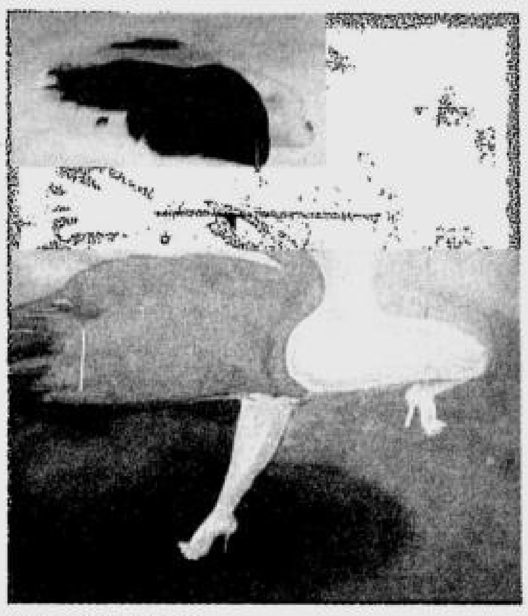
He went on to earn a degree in fine arts, major in advertising, from the University of Santo Tomas in 1987. After a short stint as a sportswear designer in a garments company, Chito joined the advertising agency Campaigns & Grey as an art director. At Campaigns, he worked on various local and multinational accounts, including Wyeth Progress, Del Monte, Procter & Gamble and Blue Ice beer. A TV spot he designed for Couples Choice Injectables won a Silver Award for Best Animation at the Malaysian Video Awards.

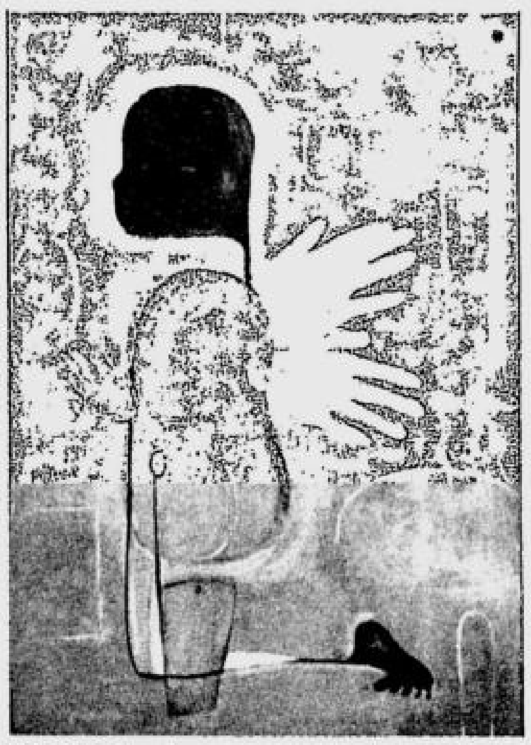
Throughout all his years in advertising, Chito continued to pursue his love for painting, but has never exhibited his work formally before. However, people who have seen and bought his paintings have been awed by Chito's whimsical imagery and bold unconventional use of colors and light. Someone described his paintings as "celebrations of life."

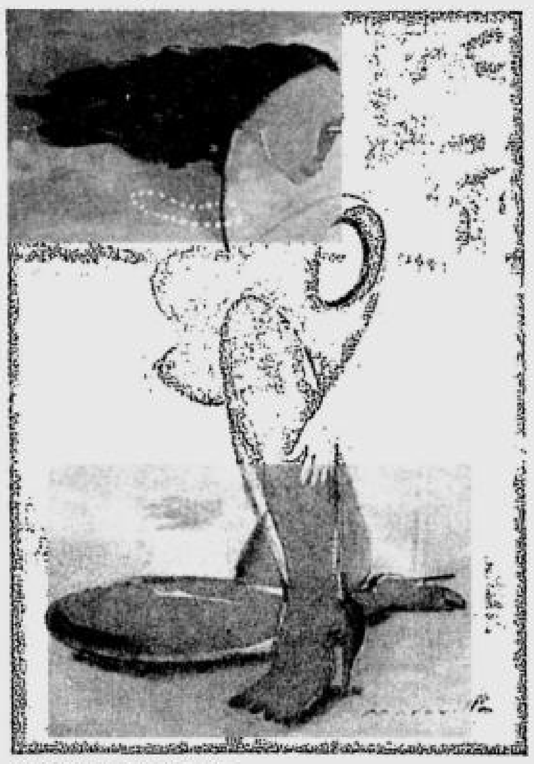
But how people feel when they see Chito Maravilla's work was best expressed by an Australian creative director who saw one of his paintings at the Campaigns & Grey office, who exclaimed, "What's he still doing in advertising? He'd be doing the world a favor by painting 24 hours a day!"

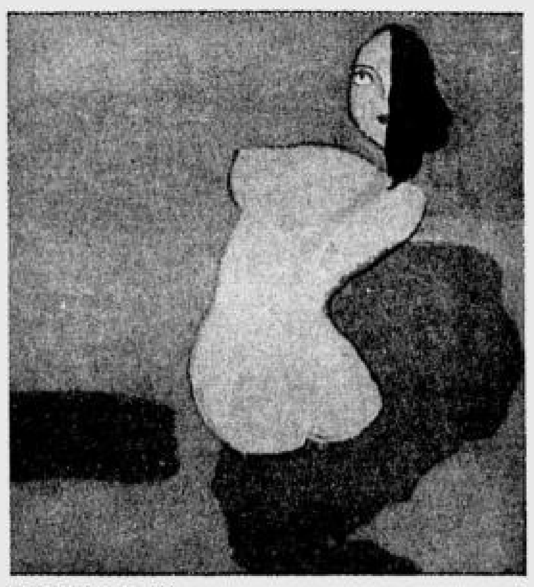
And with his first one-man exhibit on April 20-30, he may just be well on his way to doing that favor. His paintings may be viewed at Optima Digital, 2/, Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.


ARTIST at work


DANCING Angel


BROWN Angel


SENSITIVE Woman


RECLINING Woman

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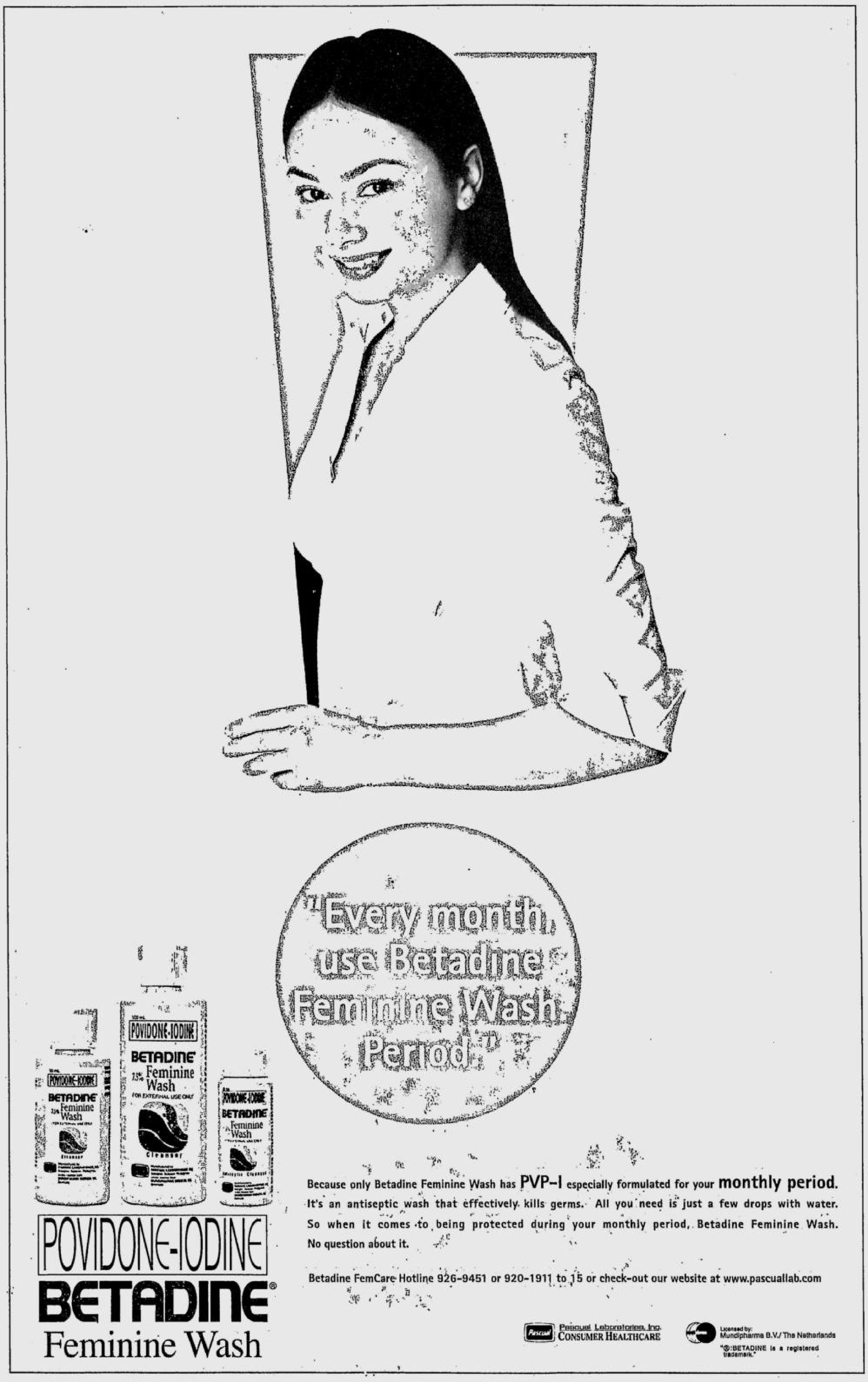
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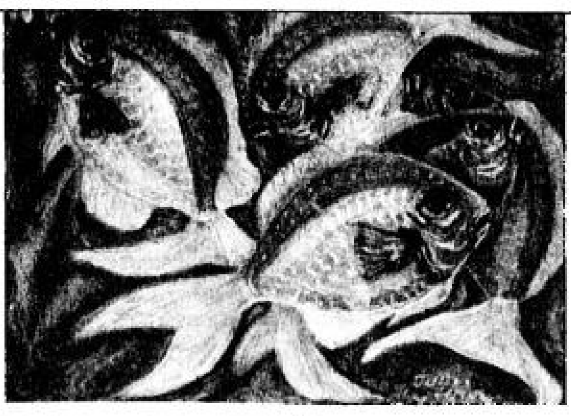
Isidro at Duemila; Limpe at West Gallery; Lofranco at the Drawing Room



"IN FIGHTING MOOD" by Julius Limpe

THE POSITIVISM Art summer workshop conducted by painter E.R. Tagle is now accepting students of all ages who wish to learn the basics of drawing and painting every Saturday. Call 816-0904. Visit E.R. Tagle Gallery, G/F, Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

RAUL Isidro opens his latest exhibit on April 17 at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. He uses single swipes of a palette and lifts off sensuous lines of ink from the printing plate creating Oriental-influenced lunarscapes above farm paddies and fish pens. Call 634-3261 or 831-9990.

LIMPE AT WEST. Julius Limpe mounts his eighth one-man show dubbed "Fish Kingdom," at the West Gallery, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati, from April 19 to May 15. After tackling different subjects about nature, Limpe returns to focus on the fish. He loves to animate fish in different moods and actions. He describes his style as expressionistic, making his brush strokes act on the flow of emotion. "Every color brings the next color," he says. Call 752-7028 or 752-7029. There will be opening cocktails on April 19, 6:30 p.m.

VISUAL ARTS

LOFRANCO AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Jojo Lofranco, an emerging young artist in the non-figurative style, is mounting his second one-man show of paperworks at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. The exhibit runs until April 25. The show features works characterized by spontaneity and minimalist composition. Call 897-7877/6990.

SENA AT GALLERY 139. Fernando Sena is holding "Semana Santa III" until April 17 at Gallery 139, 4/L, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The annual exhibition of holy subjects focuses on the Blessed Virgin Mary in her myriad moods and manifestations. Painted in oil on canvas and adorned with intricate frames, Sena's icons of the Lady of Vladimir, Lady of the Holy Rosary, Lady of Guadalupe, Lady of Manaoag, Lady of Macarena, Mother of Perpetual Help and other Blessed Virgin versions are not strictly for the religious.

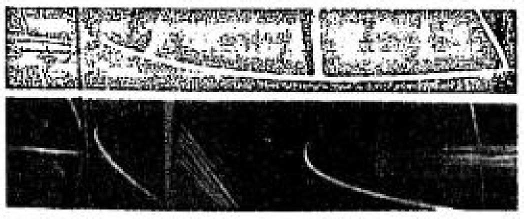
'SINING UGNAYAN 2' AT SM ART CENTER. The Ugnayang Filipino Artist's Foundation Inc. is holding its second major exhibit dubbed "Sining Ugnayan 2" at the SM Art Center 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until April 15. Call 653-0154.

'ART OF THE CROSS' AT AYALA MUSEUM. The Ayala Museum holds an exhibit dubbed "Art of the Cross: A Philippine Tradition" at the Museum's Gallery 3. The exhibit features more than 50 antique crosses from various public and private collections. The exhibit runs until June 30. Call 812-1191 to 97, local 106.

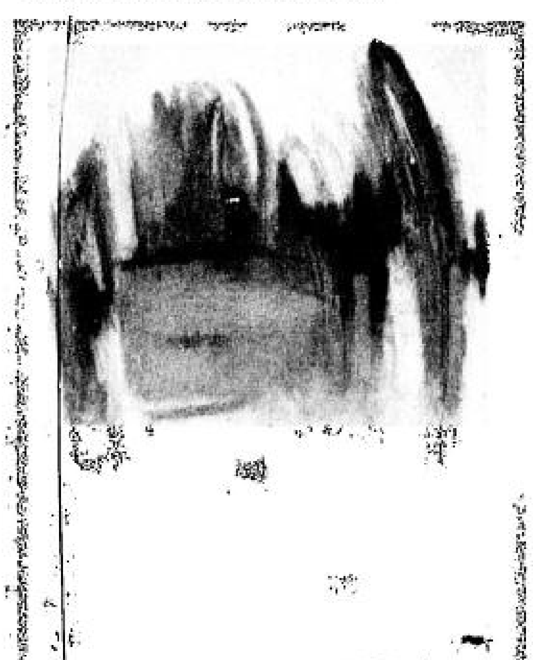
LENTEN EXHIBIT AT HEART CENTER. The Art Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center and the Kapisanan ng mga Mabungang Artistikong Isipan present "The Colors of Our Faith," a lenten art exhibit featuring the works of Greg Bolanos, Noel Bueza, Cipra, Cee, Paz and Jeimee-Cadid, Camille dela Rosa, Jun Martinez, Elmer Gernale, Andy Cubi, Entes Magpusao, Loreto and Teode Racuya and Godofredo Reyes at the Lobby of the Med-Arts Building of the Philippine Heart Center, QC. The exhibit runs until April 15.

GUTIERREZ EXHIBIT. On April 29 and 30, Ching Gutierrez will present her newest exhibit of miniature oil paintings at Odd Manila Gallery (near UP Bahay Alumni, Diliman, QC) and Le Souffle Bistro-Gallery, Ortigas Center. In a review of her artworks, Ching expresses color as "healing." Her paintings reveal dreams, inner travels and spiritual journeys she experienced as she recovered from a newly amputated toe injury. Through "Colors, Angels and Enchanting Places," Ching experienced myri-

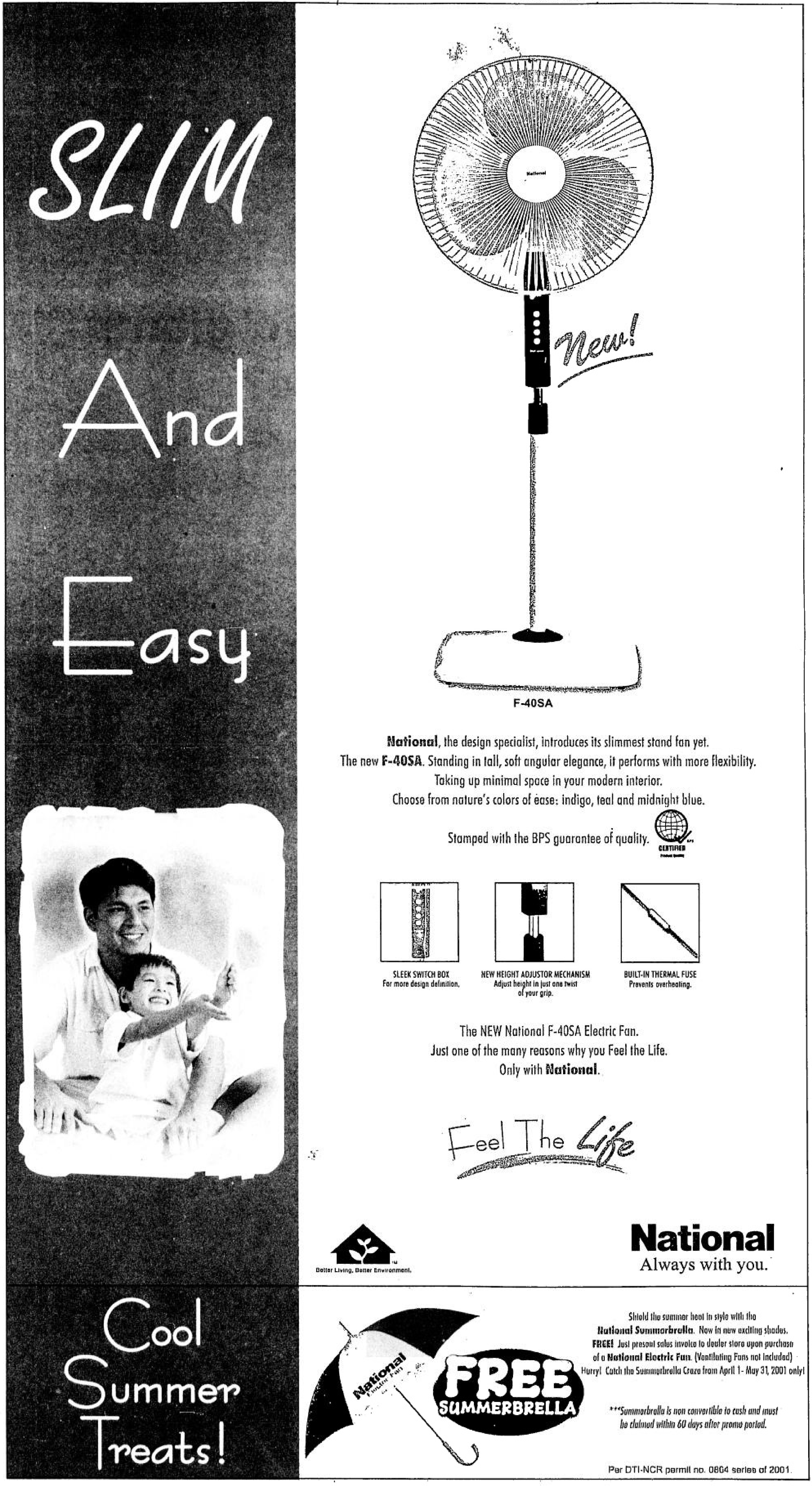
ISIDRO/ p.D7



"BLUE LADY" by Raul Isidro, on view at Galleria Duemila on April 17-30.



"L4" by Joseph Lofranco



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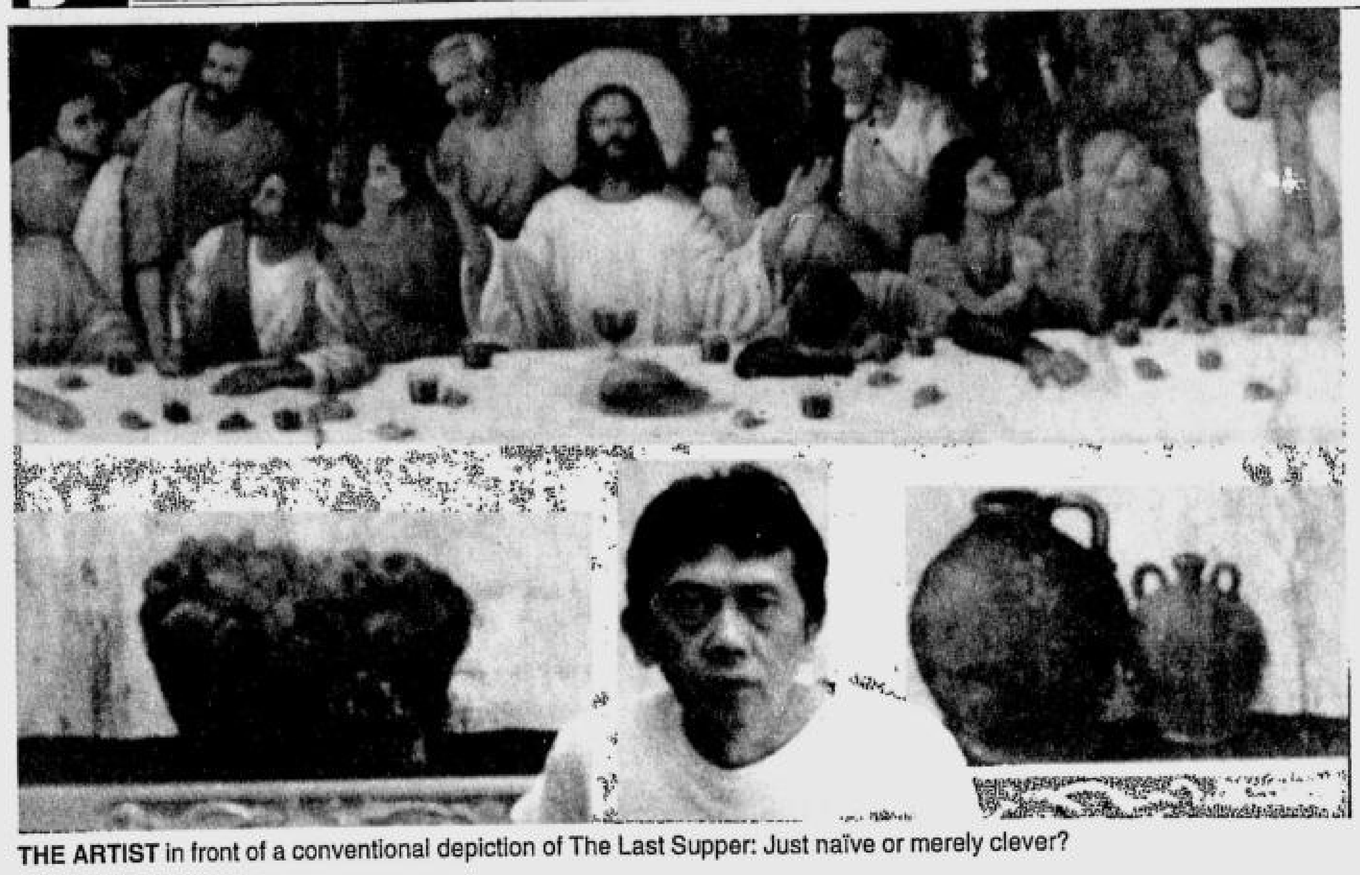


THE ARTIST in front of a conventional depiction of The Last Supper: Just naïve or merely clever?

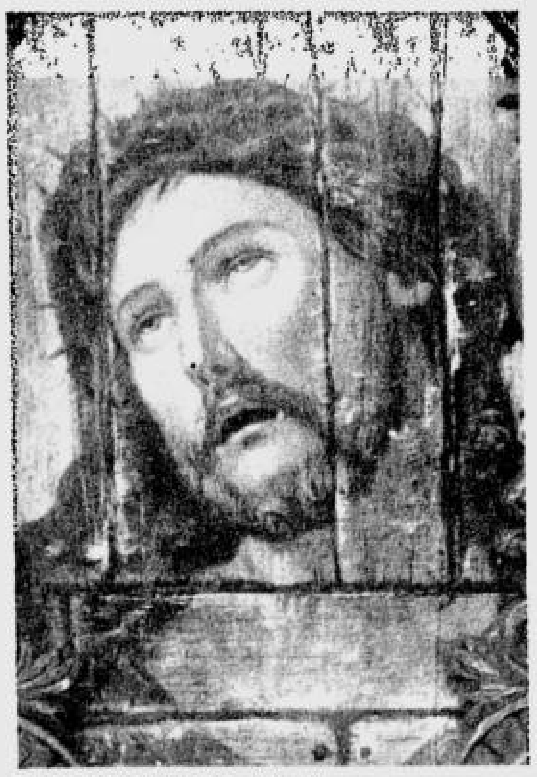
A Filipino painter's postmodern take on the Passion

(From page D1)

look of the materials on which the religious scenes have been painted. Thus, at a distance, the eyes are deceived into seeing cracks in stone, scratches on canvas, or paint peeling off chopped wood when, in fact, one is seeing new paint on canvas.

"La Ultima Cena," 18" x 90", is one of the larger pieces in the show. It is an unusually long composition of The Last Supper, showing only faces, with the apostles grouped in twos in what at first appears like small separate canvases but is actually one long piece subdivided by thick dark lines.

Dominated by blue, red, white, with flecks of gold, the faces have a look of disintegration about them except for Jesus' incorruptible face at the center. A small separate canvas depicting the descending dove of the Holy Ghost hovers above this long composition.



"SACRIFICE," 30" x 13", oil on canvas

Flat expression

The centerpiece of the show, on a separate wall, is "The Stations of the Cross," consisting of 14 circular canvases at 11" each, framed in carved gold-painted wood. The whole ensemble sells for P160,000, or one may buy a piece for about P11,000.

As in most of the pieces in the show, the figures in this composition have emotionless faces. Even Christ in the throes of death has a flat expression. This is only being true to the facial expressions of the figures in the *via crucis* one sees in churches throughout the country, as Sena has here done an exact reproduction of that iconography right down to the primary colors, the crude draftsmanship, the look of ancient mural.

"Panalangin sa Hardin," 28" x 22", a depiction in green, red and violet of Christ open-mouthed in Gethsemane, is the most agonized of the few figures in the show that have any facial expression at all.

"Sacrifice," 30" x 13", a portrait of a green-eyed Christ in agony, looks as though it has been painted on wooden planks. The trompe l'oeil even incorporates such details as nail heads, and the dark rifts between the planks form thick lines so that Christ looks as if agonizing behind bars.

"Humility of Christ," 16" x 8", is a small oil on canvas, dominated by brown, almost a monochrome, nearly hidden in a corner of the gallery. The emotion depicted is simple and straightforward, but there's human pathos here that's quite real. This may well be the finest piece in the entire exhibit.

Most sentimental

Many of the pieces are too genre, such as "The Resurrection," 28" x 23", dominated by white and sky-blue, and "The Holy Family," 33" x 24", too goody-goody even for a Sagrada Familia.

"Our Mother of Perpetual Help," 28" x 21", is a replica of that famous Byzantine icon. It radically differs only in its startling coloration—those vivid hues of yellow, blue and green that look almost palpably hot.

"Simbulo ng Kaligtasan," 23" x 15", is an extreme close-up of Christ's face in agony, but the skin itself is unblemished despite the bloody crown of thorns and 69 lashes. Amid streaks of black, white, violet and red, Christ's face looks so smooth it takes on the color of coffee with scalded milk.

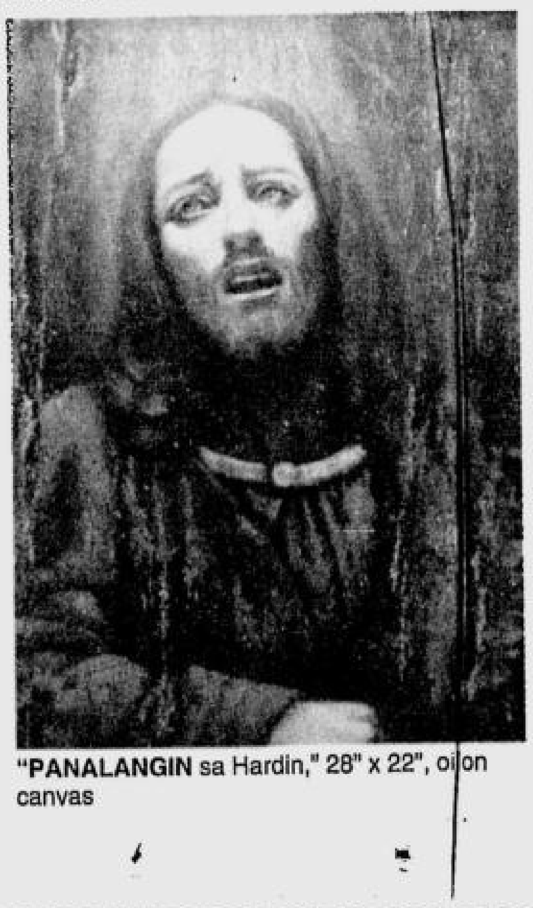
Surely the most sentimental of these pieces is "I Love You All," 17" x 12", an unconventional portrait of Christ's face presumably speaking from the cross just before He gave up the ghost. Fine, but then, as if it wasn't enough that the title's statement isn't true to the Siete Palabras, the painter just couldn't resist placing two teardrops rolling down from those blue eyes.

Now, is there a sense of irony here, as in the finest of postmodern art? In those crude lines and sentimental embellishments, are we seeing inept draftsmanship and faulty judgment, or conscious primitivism? Is the artist just naïve or merely clever?

In the pieces' antique look, at least, we'd like to think it's the latter.

Says Sena: "My insight in these antique icon paintings is the persistence of man's faith. In the chips, scratches and cracks of the icons that I paint, I see the passage of time and how through time man's faith has endured. Perhaps this faith is also the reason why man himself has endured."

Remarkably, this is at once a theory of art and a statement of faith.



"PANALANGIN sa Hardin," 28" x 22", oil on canvas

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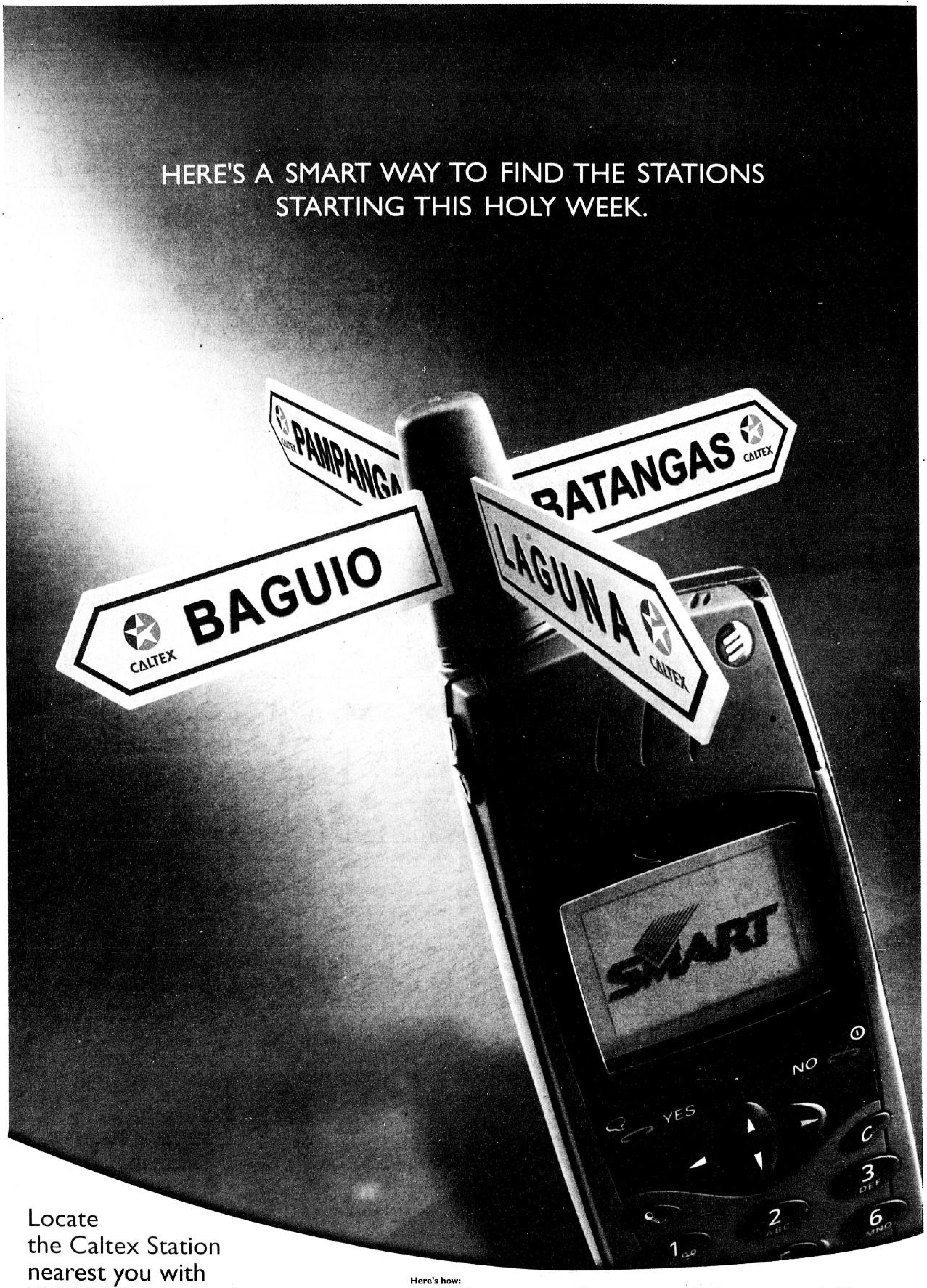
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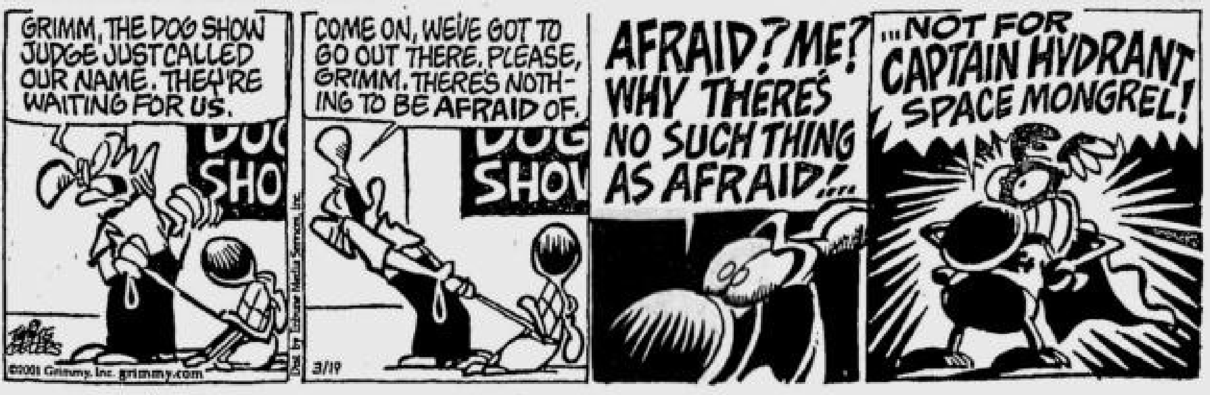
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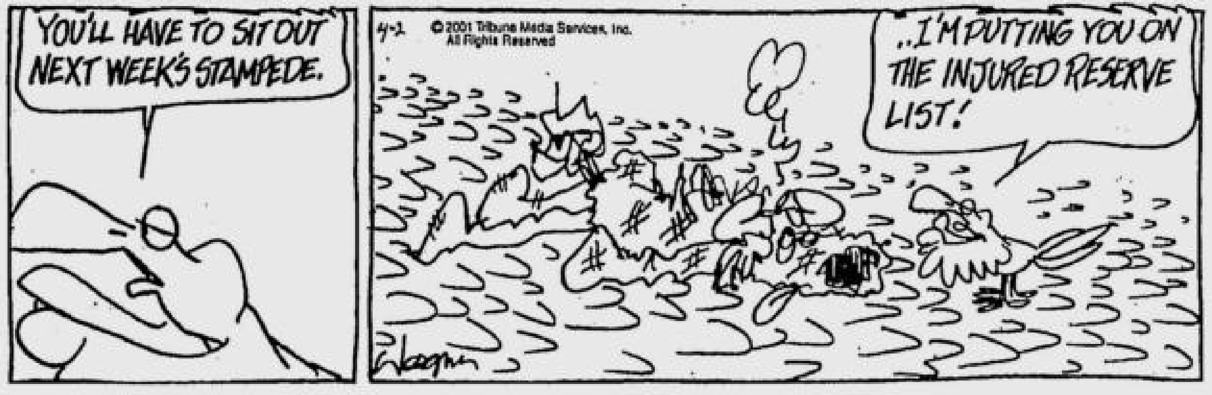
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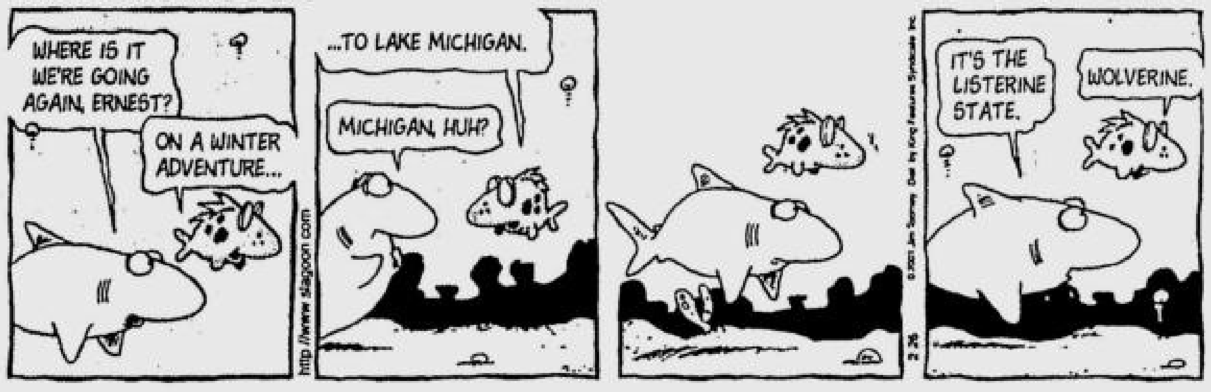
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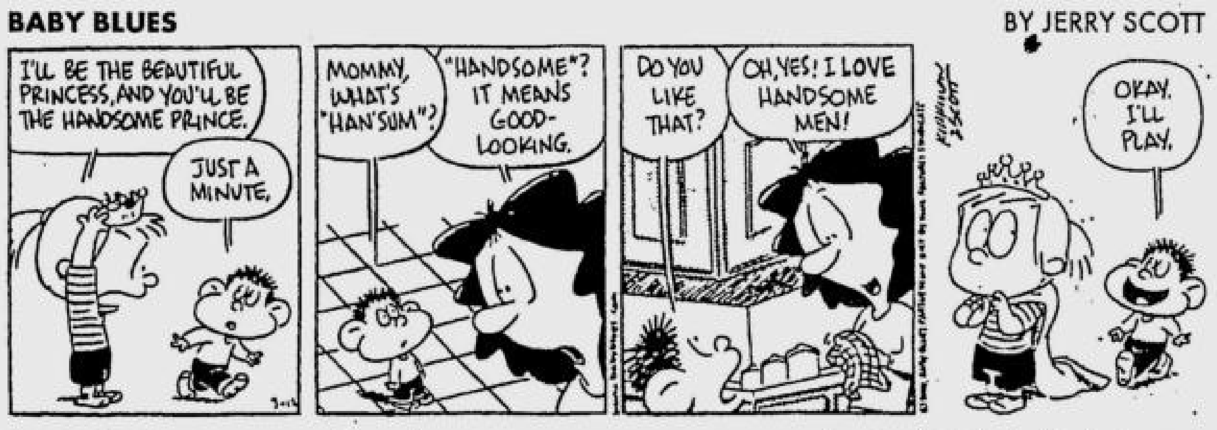
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MOMMY, WHAT'S "HAN'SUM"?
"HANDSOME"? IT MEANS GOOD-LOOKING.
DO YOU LIKE THAT?
OH, YES! I LOVE HANDSOME MEN!
OKAY. I'LL PLAY.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Learned, Dennis Quaid, Paulina Porizkova, Austin Peck, Hugh Hefner **Happy Birthday:** Do your own thing and don't interfere with what others want to do. This is a time for accomplishment, not for remaking those around you. You will do well if you are intent on doing your best and offering a hand to those who ask for it. Money ventures will turn out well as long as you don't overstep your financial limits. The most important thing to remember is to be good to yourself and those you love. Your numbers: 6, 14, 17, 27, 30, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your partner will be ready to blame you for everything. You will be uncertain of your feelings. Don't make statements that you'll regret later. Be sure before you make a move.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your talents to work. Your boss will appreciate your creative flair. Co-workers may be jealous if you appear to get special treatment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Love interests are growing. You must nurture your relationship by making special plans that will bring you closer together. A visit to your local travel agent may be just the place to start.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have more people on your domestic scene. Unexpected guests may overstay their welcome. Don't let them take advantage of you or cost you financially.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Gossip will lead to trouble. Someone you work with may turn things around to make you look bad. Don't volunteer personal information about others. You will lose friends if you're not trustworthy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Apply for new positions that will lead to higher wages and more responsibilities. You will earn recognition for your work and accomplishments. Career should be your prime concern.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be ready to take on any challenge that comes your way. You will impress those you talk to. Your ability to follow through on your actions will be admired by those observing you from a distance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be too quick to judge others by the stories you hear. Delve a little deeper and find out the truth. You may be able to help an underdog come out on top.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The connections you make will offer encouragement, but don't expect to receive hands-on help. The work will have to be done by you alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be unnerved by the difficulties that colleagues are causing. Friends will not understand your situation. Don't worry about what others think; just do what is necessary to make things right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen and observe, and you will pick up the knowledge you need to get ahead. You can put your ideas into motion if you present your thoughts to those in a position to help you get the ball rolling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your money in a safe place and don't let anyone talk you into donating to an organization that you don't know that much about. Don't forget charity begins at home.

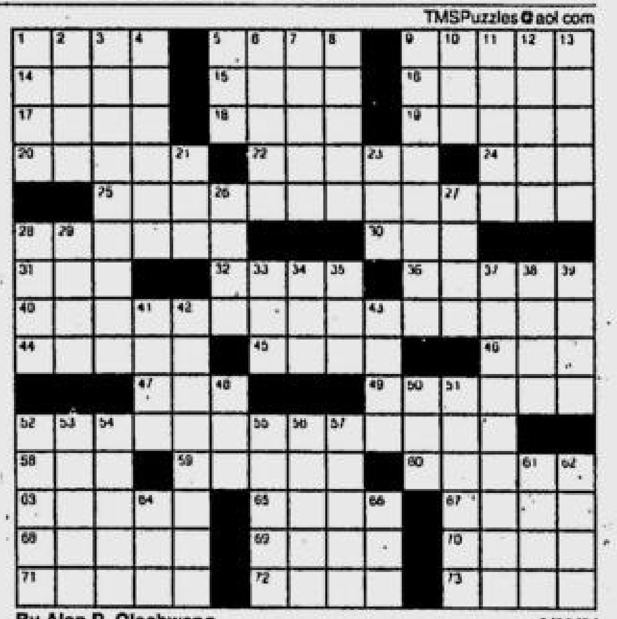
Birthday Baby: You can be fairly serious when it comes to the way you feel about others. Your dedication and determination will help you master whatever you set out to do. Setbacks will only make you stronger, wiser and more intent on getting ahead.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Hey, over here!
5 Pond coating
9 Nab
14 Bounding gait
15 Otherwise
16 American chameleon
17 Medicinal plant
18 __ de force
19 Of birth
20 Wrongful acts
22 Chocolate source
24 Before, to a bard
25 Start of Henri Bergson quote
28 Member of a monastic Jewish sect
30 Publicize
31 Mythical bird
32 Greek letters
36 Phoenician city
40 Part 2 of quote
44 Isaac's mother
45 Phnom __, Cambodia
46 Narrow inlet
47 Pers. pension
49 Expulsion
52 End of quote
58 On the __ (fleeing)
59 Scatter
60 U.S. Grant's first name
63 Factory
65 Stew pot
67 Track contest
68 Witch __
69 Ode
70 Reverberate
71 Rocky ridge
72 Kett of the comics
73 Distort

DOWN
1 __ du jour
2 Flight school final
3 Racing vehicle
4 Cut molars
5 Match part
6 Timepiece
7 Routine
8 Tours' thanks
9 Paddler
10 Literary collection
11 Clan emblem
12 California Santa
13 Gurley Brown or Reddy
21 Moral misdeed
23 Alias letters
26 Florentine glassmaker Antonio
27 Seed cover
28 Love god
29 Chesterfield
33 Bound
34 Any person
35 __ Quentin
37 Motorcyclist's milieu
38 Depression era migrant
39 Close at hand
41 First felon
42 Former spinning machine
43 __ En-lai
48 Away from the prow
50 Exclamation of disgust
51 Former English counties
52 First one of a series
53 Of the cheekbone
54 Astound
55 Figure of speech
56 Spartan serf
57 Night hunter of the future
61 Belly follower
62 The cat's __
64 Bottom line
66 GPs' org.



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

2/23/01

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

W	O	W	S	■	D	A	F	T	■	B	A	N	A	L
E	X	I	T	■	O	D	O	R	■	E	L	O	P	E
B	E	N	E	A	T	H	C	O	N	T	E	M	P	T
S	N	E	E	R	■	O	U	T	E	R	■	A	L	I
■	■	■	D	I	S	C	S	■	S	A	D	D	E	N
J	I	G	S	A	W	■	■	S	T	Y	E	■	■	■
I	D	A	■	■	I	A	G	O	■	E	A	S	E	S
B	E	L	O	W	T	H	E	S	U	R	F	A	C	E
S	A	L	V	E	■	O	M	A	N	■	■	S	H	E
■	■	■	E	S	P	Y	■	■	D	A	W	S	O	N
S	P	A	R	T	A	■	N	A	O	M	I	■	■	■
T	A	U	■	E	L	V	I	S	■	E	N	O	L	A
U	N	D	E	R	L	O	C	K	A	N	D	K	E	Y
F	E	I	G	N	■	W	H	E	N	■	U	R	G	E
F	L	O	G	S	■	S	E	W	N	■	P	A	S	S

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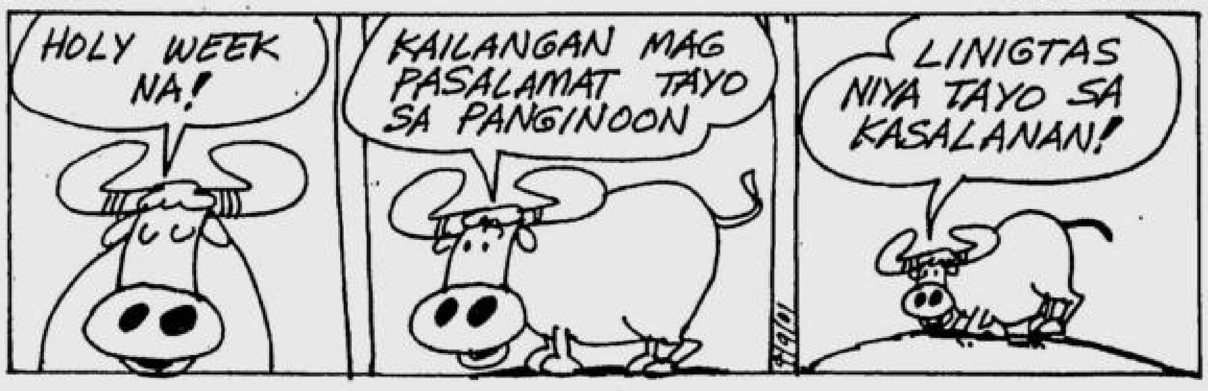
2/23/01

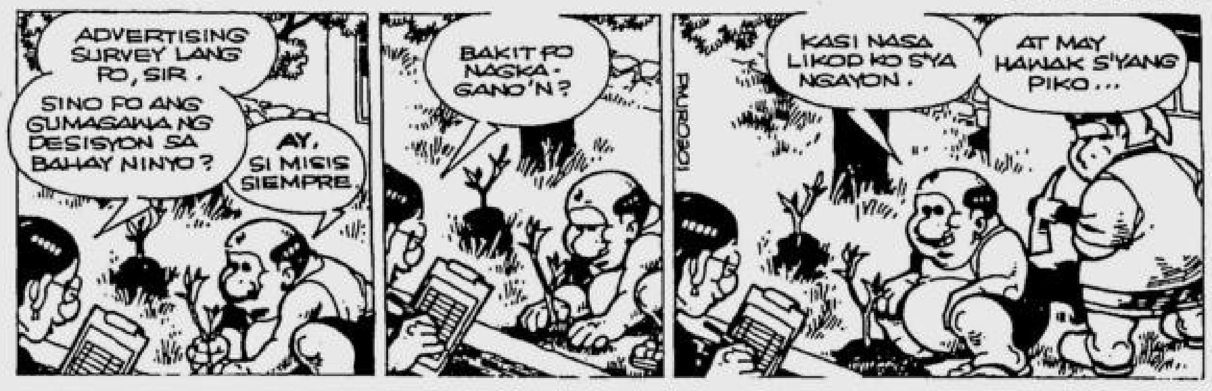
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HOLY WEEK NA!
KAILANGAN MAG PASALAMAT TAYO SA PANGINOON
LINIGTAS NIYA TAYO SA KASALANAN!

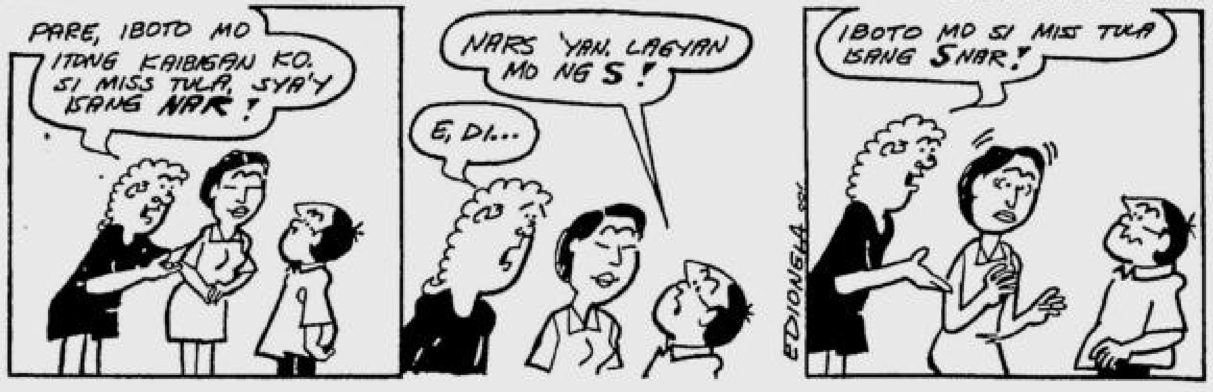
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ADVERTISING SURVEY LANG PO, SIR.
SINO PO ANG GUMAGAWA NG DESISYON SA BAHAY NINYO?
AY, SI MISIS SIEMPRE.
BAKIT PO NAGKA-GANO'N?
KASI NASA LIKOD KO S'YA NGAYON.
AT MAY HAWAK S'YANG PIKO...

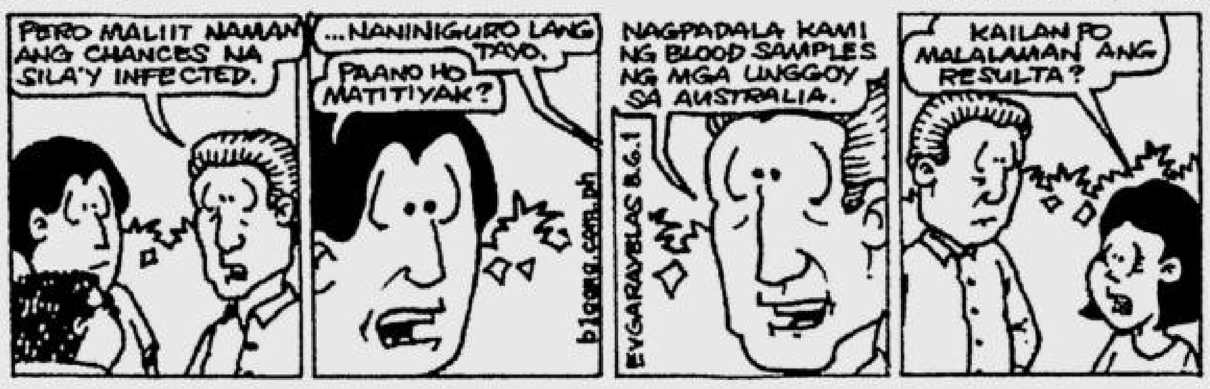
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, IBOTO MO ITONG KAIBIGAN KO. SI MISS TULA, SYA'Y ISANG NAR!
NARS 'YAN, LAGYAN MO NG S!
E, DI...
IBOTO MO SI MISS TULA ISANG SNAR!
EDIONELA

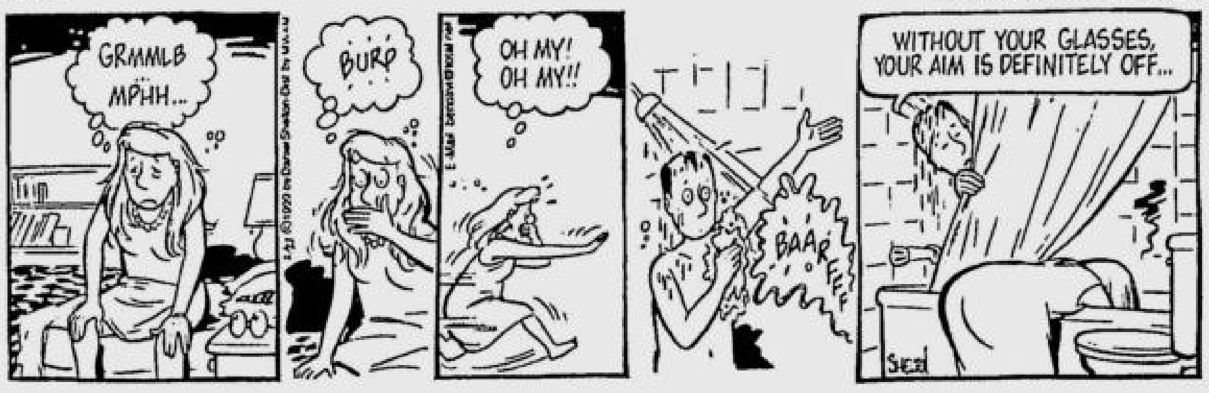
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


PERO MALIIT NAMAN ANG CHANCES NA SILA'Y INFECTED.
...NANINIGURO LANG TAYO.
PAANO HO MATITIYAK?
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAVELAS B.G.1
NAGPADALA KAMI NG BLOOD SAMPLES NG MGA UNGGOY SA AUSTRALIA.
KAILAN PO MALALAMAN ANG RESULTA?

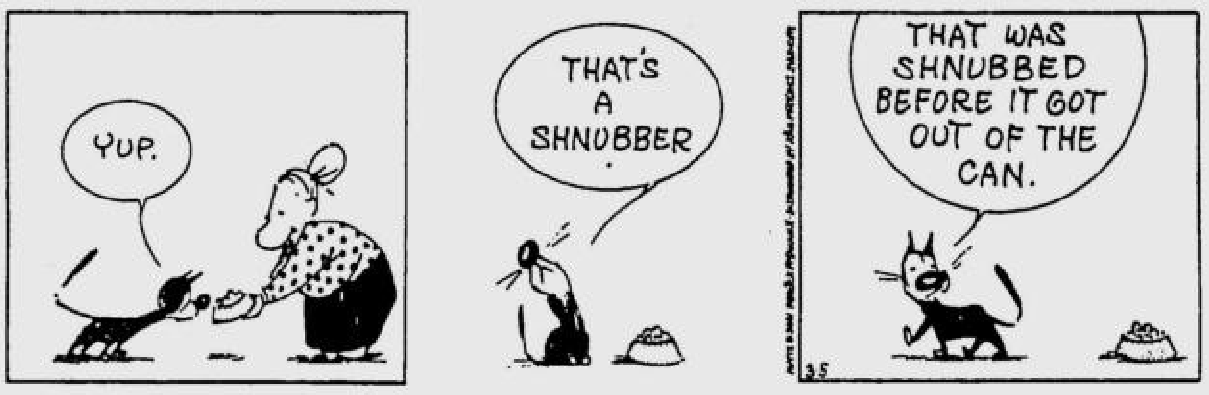
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRMMLB MPHH...
BURP
OH MY! OH MY!!
BAARFFF
WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES, YOUR AIM IS DEFINITELY OFF...

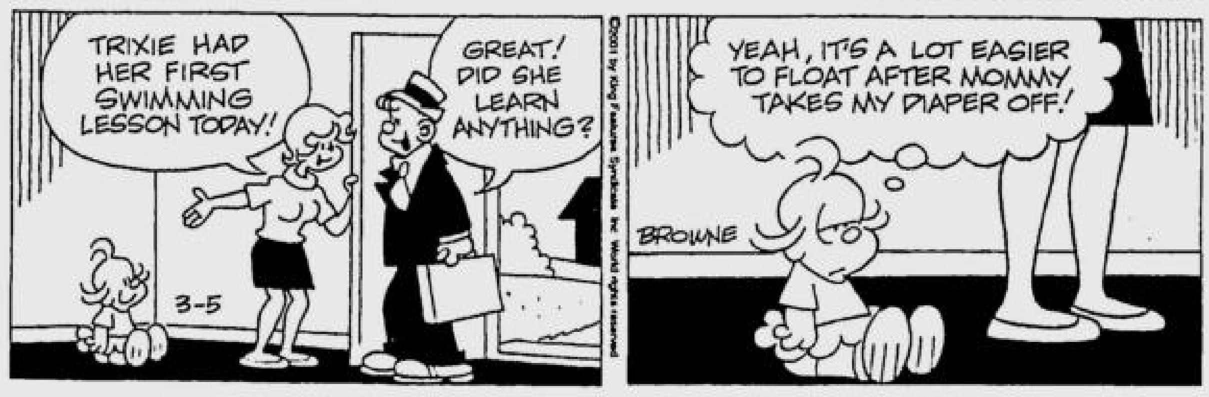
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YUP.
THAT'S A SHNUBBER
THAT WAS SHNUBBED BEFORE IT GOT OUT OF THE CAN.
3.5

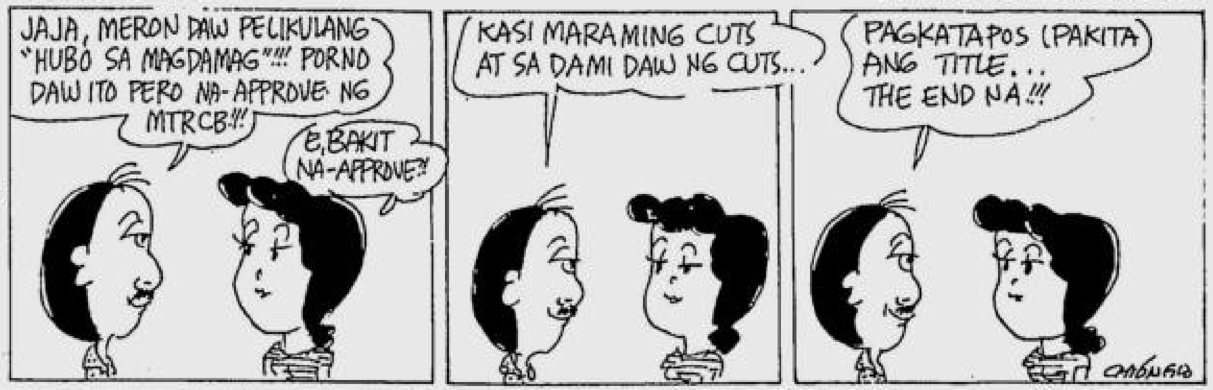
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


TRIXIE HAD HER FIRST SWIMMING LESSON TODAY!
GREAT! DID SHE LEARN ANYTHING?
3-5
YEAH, IT'S A LOT EASIER TO FLOAT AFTER MOMMY TAKES MY DIAPER OFF!
BROWNE

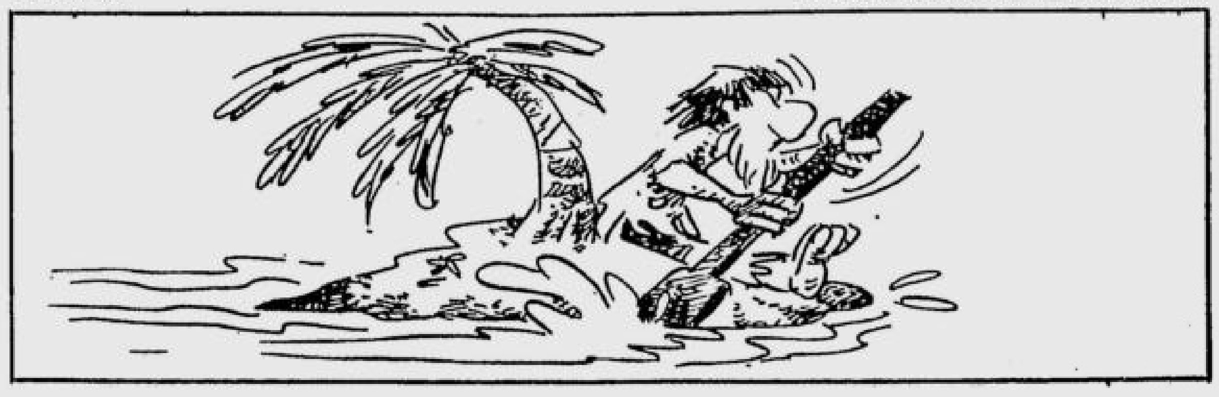
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, MERON DAW PELIKULANG "HUBO SA MAGDAMAG"!!! PORNO DAW ITO PERO NA-APPROVE NG MTRCB!!!
E, BAKIT NA-APPROVE?!
KASI MARAMING CUTS AT SA DAMI DAW NG CUTS...
PAGKATAPOS (PAKITA ANG TITLE... THE END NA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



YOUNG talents sketch nature drawings under the watchful eyes of Angono's renowned folk artists.

THE FAMOUS Blanco family of artists with other young artists of Angono

Angono artists hold seminar-workshop

THE ANGONO Artists' Association will conduct a free art seminar-workshop on April 16-27 at the Blanco Family Academy. Sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation and the Blanco Family Museum, the workshop is designed to teach talented children, 7 years and above, basic drawing, sculpture, pastel and oil painting. Call 651-0048/3181.

The Angono Artists' Association will also present the talents of more than 100 young workshoppers in an exhibition on May 6-10 at the Angono town gymnasium. Clay sculpture, relief, drawing, pastel and oil painting are some of the works to be exhibited.

Art Pack conducts workshop

ART PACK founder Bambi Cordero conducts unique and alternative art courses this summer. Courses include Deco-Stained Glass Simulation on April 22 and 29; Mirror Frost Spectrum on May 6; Porcelain Painting on May 13; Decoupage and Antiquing Technique on May 20 and 27; Clay Sculpting on June 3, and Metal Art on June 10. All classes will be held at Café Hon in the 2/L, CRM3 Building, Kamias Road near corner Kasing-Kasing Street, QC. Call 932-4428.

FABER CASTELL WORKSHOP. Faber Castell holds a series of art workshops for free to be conducted by Fernando Sena, Deon Nacario and To Austria. The workshops will be held on April 17-18 at the Atrium, Building A, SM Megamall; April 21, at Paz "Ching" Abad Santos' Atelier at 119 Scout Limbaga St., QC; April 2-25 at the Food Court Entertainment Plaza of SM North Edsa. Call 361-7391/7392/7395/7396.

ART FOR EARTH'S SAKE KIDDIE WORKSHOP. The Young Advocates: Art for Earth's Sake Kiddie Workshop and Exhibit will be conducting a free workshop activity at The Children's Library, 4/F, Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, QC. Artworks will be exhibited at the Children's Library during the showcase presentation and culminating activity on April 22 until May 5. Call 636-7682 or the Young Advocates at 747-6150.

UP VARGAS MUSEUM WORKSHOP. Art sessions on drawing, painting and crafts for children aged 5-9 will be offered this summer at UP Vargas Museum. Classes will start on April 18. Call 920-5301, local 7408.

Isidro . . .

(From page D3)

ads of exciting beautiful worlds which viewers may have also experienced.

E.R TAGLE EXHIBIT. The simultaneous launching of painter E.R Tagle's modern painting "Bayanihan," which portrays unity, teamwork, action and cooperation, will be on April 13 at M.C. Mountain Home Tourist Inn, Alfonso, Cavite; the lobby Tea Lounge of Bayview Park Hotel at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and United Nations Avenue; the G/F of Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City; and the Art Gallery of SSS, East Avenue, QC. Call 816-0904.

ALCAZAREN AT FINALE ART GALLERY. Juan Alcazaren weaves a magic spell as he is in possession of the fabled philosopher stone. As a sculptor par excellence, he transmutes ordinary objects, castoffs, wooden pieces and metal scraps into entrancing, three-dimensional works. For his latest exhibit dubbed "With My Deepest Anthropologies" at Finale Art Gallery in SM Megamall, Alcazaren conjures up a series of paintings and a major sculptural piece that would enchant the viewer with his visual wit, inventiveness and sheer talent. The exhibit runs on April 17-29.

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES AT AYALA. Ayala Museum will be holding a series of lectures at the Amorsolo Room of the Ayala Museum to complement its special exhibit dubbed "Art of the Cross: A Philippine Tradition." Lectures will be held every Saturday of April and May. Call 812-1191 to 97, local 106.

WORKSHOP. Escuela sa Museo, the continuing education program of the Ayala Museum, will offer workshops in painting, drawing, sculpture, arts and craft and creative writing designed for children ages 2-14 years old. Basic Drawing (ages 7-12) with Don Salubayba; Beginners Watercolor (ages 7-12) with Marc Cosico, and Beginners Oil (ages 9-13) will begin on April 17 and will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until May 4.

Sculpture (ages 7-12) with Bambi Cordero will begin sessions on April 18 and will be held for four consecutive Wednesdays until May 9.

Beginners Pastel (ages 7-12) with Ferdinand Doctolero; Basic Arts and Crafts (ages 4-6) with Lena Cobangbang; Mixed Media (ages 7-12) with Don Salubayba; Beginners Oil for teens (ages 14-17) with Amiel Roldan, and Play Art for Toddlers (ages 2-3.5) with Veronica Ocampo will begin on April 19 and will also be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until May 4.

Introduction to Creative Writing (ages 9-14) with Carla Pacis will begin sessions on April 21 and will be held for four consecutive Saturdays until May 12. Call 812-1191 to 97, local 130.

Laking BIG K sa presyong 3R. Laking tipid,
...plus may REWARDS ka pa!!!
See poster for details. Promo Period from March 26 to April 14, 2001 Per DTI - NCR Permit # 0828 Series of 2001
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4
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3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000
1st Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200
2nd Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Palawan + P5,000
3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000
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MECHANICS OF THE "NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY" PROMOTION

HERE'S HOW

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, and signature on a piece of paper.
2. Attach this to a single wrapper, label, or pouch of any of the following Nestle or Goya Confectionery products: Kit Kat, Nestle Classic Milk Chocolate, Nestle Classic Eclairs, Fox's, Goya Chocolate Coins, Goya Cubes, Goya Silver Cup, Goya Golden Crown.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at designated Supermarkets and Groceries.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   a) Goya, Inc., 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina City
   b) Nestle Philippines, Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   c) Or any Nestle office near you.
5. Draw date is on July 7, 2001 and Cut off date is on June 30, 2001.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Total prize to be given away per region (GMA, LUZ, VIS, MIN) are as follows:

Adults 1st Prize Trip for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200.00
2nd Prize Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000.00
3rd Prize 5 x P5,000.00

Family 1st Prize Trip for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200.00
2nd Prize Trip for 4 to Palawan + P5,000.00
3rd Prize 5 x P5,000.00

4. Draw date is on the 7th of July 2001.
5. Entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouches or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
10. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
11. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
16. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
17. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
18. Nestle reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes. All winners will be notified by mail.
19. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

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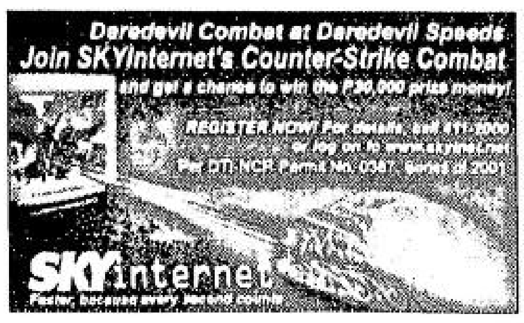
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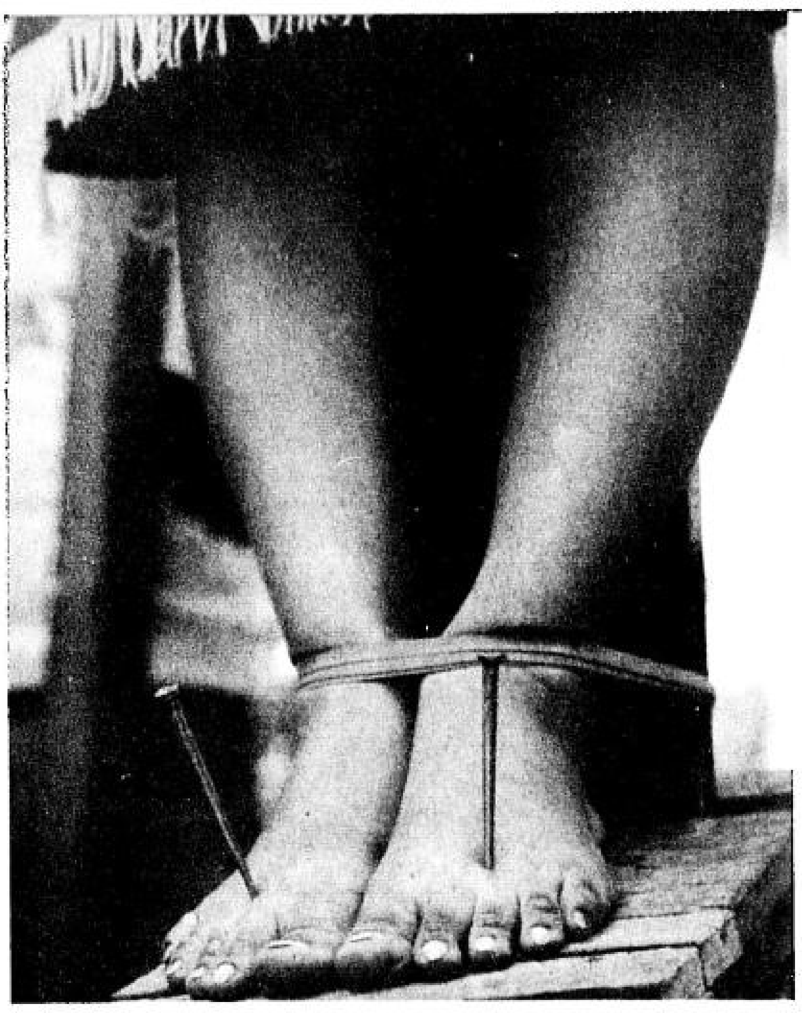
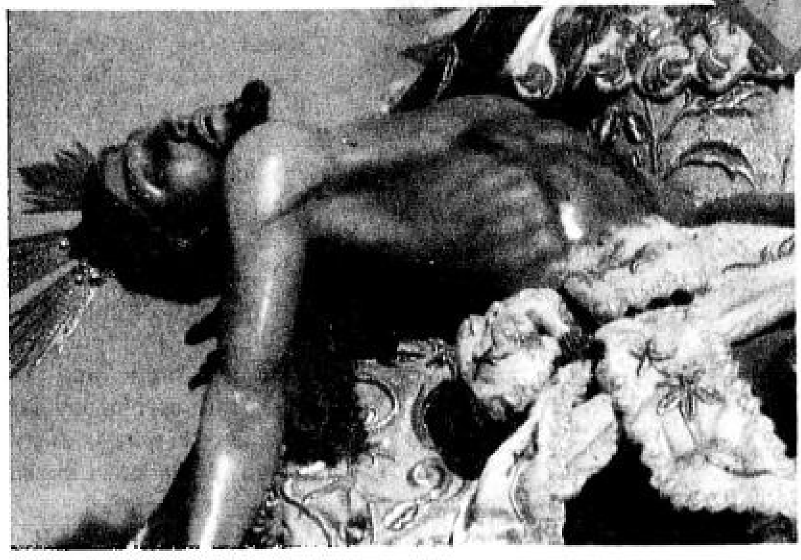

PIERCED feet of a female penitent in Hagonoy, Bulacan.


THE PIETA is more popularly known in the Philippines as "Angustia," a more expressive title.

AN OLD chanter struggles devoutly in the traditional *pabasa*.

'Cuaresma,' a new coffee-table book, portrays Filipino Lent in all its fantastic colors and starkest images

Behind the rites of Lent

HOW do Filipino devotees prepare themselves physically and spiritually for Lent? What goes on in the hearts and minds of Catholic Filipinos in far-flung corners of the archipelago during this solemn season of the year?

Vivid text and gripping photographs tell it all in the book "Cuaresma," which was recently launched at Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's residence at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City.

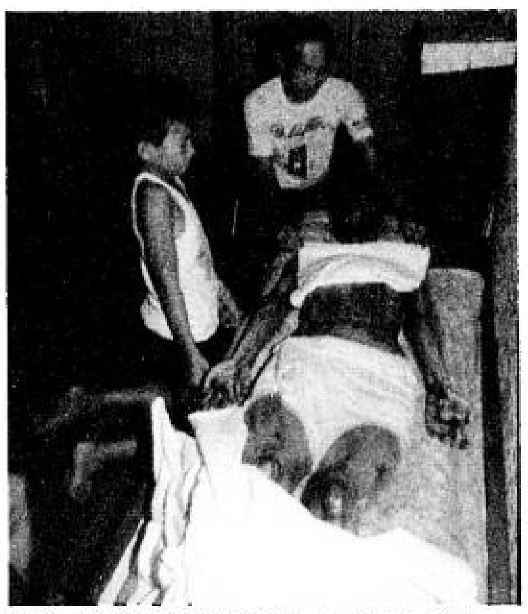
Intended for a wide audience, the book highlights various renditions and versions of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ, and the contrasting rituals of rejoicing that comes with the tumultuous Easter celebration.

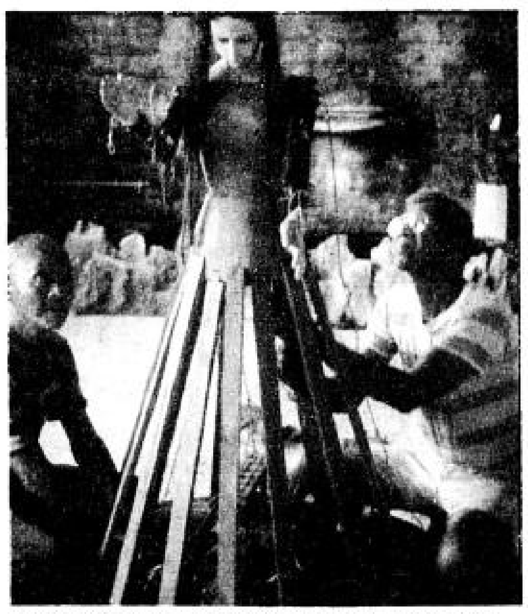
The term *cuaresma* in Spanish actually means being given over to prayer, alms-giving, fasting and abstinence from meat.

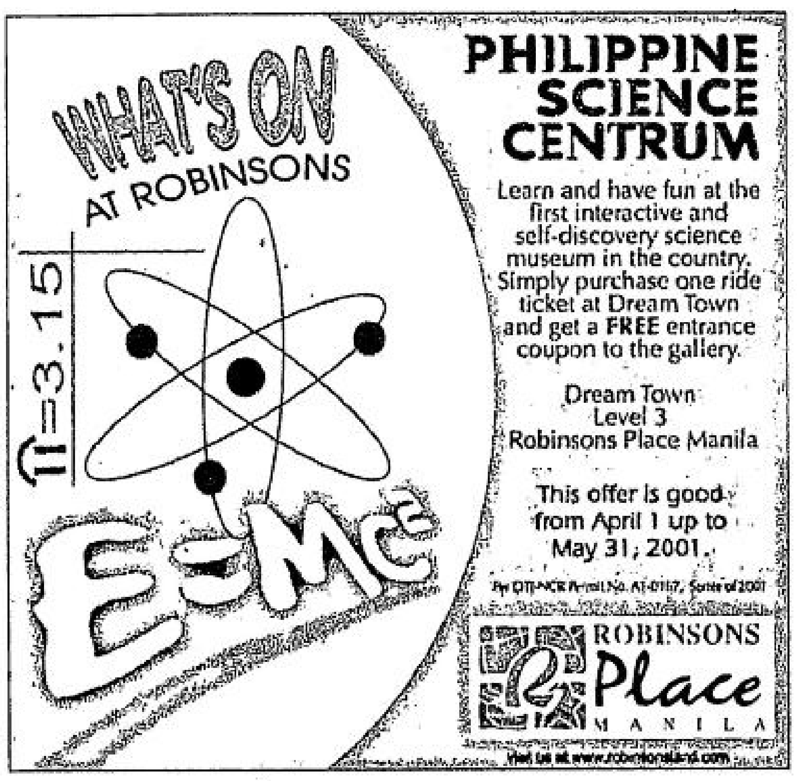
"Cuaresma" the book opens new vistas on the popular annual celebration. Published by Bookmark Inc., it painstakingly and realistically presents the rituals of observance of Holy Week in various towns and cities throughout Luzon and the Visayas.

It has a dedicated writing, research and editing team, led by writer and publishing maven Gilda Cordero Fernando and culture teacher Fernando N. Zialcita. Photography is by Noli Yamsuan, with contributions by Manuel Baldemor, Butch Garcia, Gino Marasigan, Leslie Ann Murray, Jose Ma. Ricardo Panlilio, Ed San-

BEHIND/ p.E2


THE *SANTO ENTIERRE*, or figure of the dead Christ, is prepared in Carcar, Cebu.


CRAFTSMEN of Paete, Laguna set up a *santo*. The wooden braces will support the heavy velvet gown.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Behind the rites of Lent

(From page E1)

tiago, Dominico Sepe, Ulay Tantoco and Boldy Tapales.

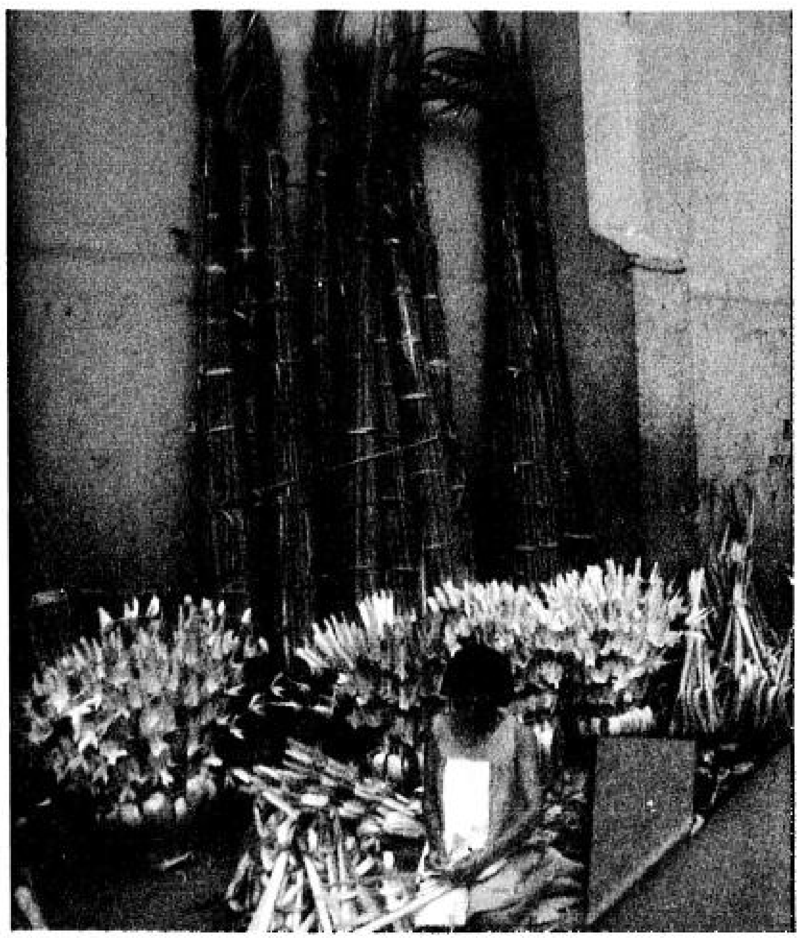
The informative, fluid essays and articles were written by Benjamin Basilidez G. Bautista, Reynaldo C. Ileto, Nicanor G. Tiongson and Corazon S. Alvina.

With "Cuaresma," readers are destined for a profound experience of the sentiments, meanings, rituals and spectacles that accompany Lent, practices that have evolved through the centuries and continued to shape the Filipino character.

"Cuaresma" is available at The Filipino Bookstore (with branches at Glorietta 1, Makati City; 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; F. de la Rosa Street, Loyola Heights, QC; Promenade, Alabang Town Center, Alabang, Muntiniupa City; City Triangle, C.M. Recto, Davao City; and 2/L ABC Galleries, Remedios Circle, Malate) and all Bookmark branches.

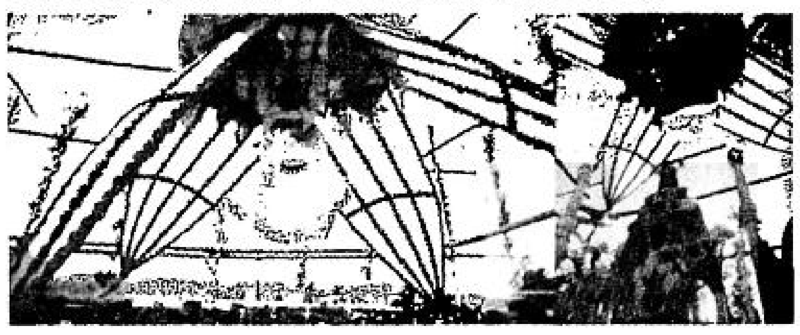
BOOK cover

IN LOON, Bohol, the town is organized for a potluck Maundy Thursday feast on the churchyard.


***PALASPAS*-MAKING** in Quiapo

MASKED penitent

MALOLOS women spread their *tapis* on the ground to reenact Christ's triumphal entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.


THE TRADITIONAL *salubong* at Easter dawn. In Angono, Rizal, a huge paper flower opens, revealing an angel who is lowered.

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This political ad was paid for by 13-0 Movement and Consumers & Communicators for Good Governance for PPC, Metro Manila

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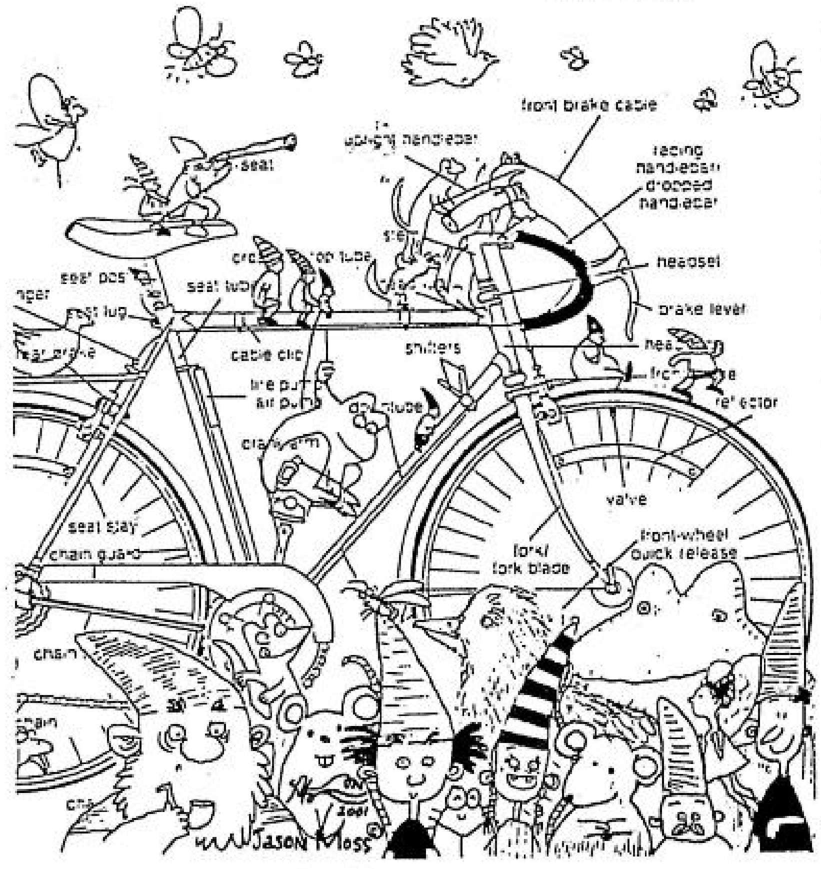
Sunday, April 22,2001, Earth Day!

Start & End: Marikina Riverbanks Center
Check-in & Registration 5 30 am (amphitheater area)
Ride begins at 7 00 am



When was the last time you saw fireflies in the city?

The fireflies have all fled because of air pollution. All of us, cyclists, walkers, runners, pedestrians, commuters, even those of us who ride cars, all of us who live and work, who make love and raise families in the city are in danger of suffering the same fate as pollution remains unabated due to discharges from motor vehicles and factories. We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

The 50 k Ride

The Tour of the Fireflies is a 50 km social bike tour of cities around Metro Manila. The pace will be moderate and the pack will be controlled so that even occasional riders, older children and senior people can enjoy the ride.

The ride will make several short trips along the route in order for the whole caravan to regroup. There will be a major rest stop (20 mins) at the halfway point in Fort Bonifacio at the Global City Cycle Fest. The ride is expected to take about 3.5 to 4 hours.

A S.A.G (support and gear) wagon will be available for those unable to continue the ride. Also, participants may "abandon" the ride at specific points and proceed directly to Marikina Riverbanks. However, they will have to take care of themselves as they cycle in motor vehicle traffic.

The Firefly Brigade
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
RIVERBANKS CENTER
THE BODY SHOP

Where to register (Registration fee is P50):
Bike shops: ***The Bike Room*** (Pasay: Cartimar) ***Joven*** (Pasig near Marikina: Amang Rodriguez near cor Marcos Hi-way) ***Roosevelt*** (Q.C.: Roosevelt ave. near cor. Baler) ***Extreme*** (Q.C.: Timog cor. Panay) ***Bicycle Works*** (Aurora Blvd, Cubao, near Isetann) ***Bisikleta Atbp*** (marikina: JP Rizal cor Sumulong Hi-way near Bingo) **To avail of souvenir t-shirts/jerseys/cycling shorts,** please register by April 8. Those who register after this date or on-site may claim their orders 2 weeks after the ride (May 5) at Joven Bike Shop The Body Shop Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 2, SM Southmall/Megamall/Fairview/ City North Edsa,Robinson's Galleria/Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival Supermall

ALL Participants, adults & kids alike, are very much encouraged to wear COSTUMES and decorate their bikes. The more costumed we are, the merrier we will be !!! Cash & Special Prizes for Best Costume & Decorated Bikes!

An artistic writing instrument from Italy

AURORA Pen boasts of noble origins from the Italy of Raphael and Da Vinci and other classical maestros, although its make is the latest that modern technology and design can offer. Aurora's new lines are available at National Bookstore.

Idea, with its highly contemporary compact design, is ideal for dynamic thinkers and hip, sophisticated young people who want to stand out from the crowd. It is available as a fountain pen, with decorated flexible nib and adjustable sizes; as a ballpoint pen with button and twist-off coaxial feed barrel and long-lasting refill; and as roller pen which writes extremely smoothly. They come in ocean blue, red and orange.

The new Idea comes in two versions: Translucent and Metallic Cap. Translucent comes in barrel and cap in ultra modern translucent rubberized materials set off by brushed and shiny metal finishes. In the Metallic Cap version, the cap is shaped entirely from brushed finished metal with the barrel in translucent rubberized material. Brushed and shiny metal finishes complement the high-tech look. The price ranges from P580 to P980.

The Magellano Collection, which has up till now been characterized as "slim as reed," has grown and with its new ring has become even more authoritative and classically masculine.

The ultra new Magellano Big ballpoint comes in three versions, high-tech chrome plated, youthful mat-black resin, and soberly elegant dapple blue lacquer. The trims have been reworked: one chromed, one gold-plated both with prestigious logo engraved, as always on the ring.

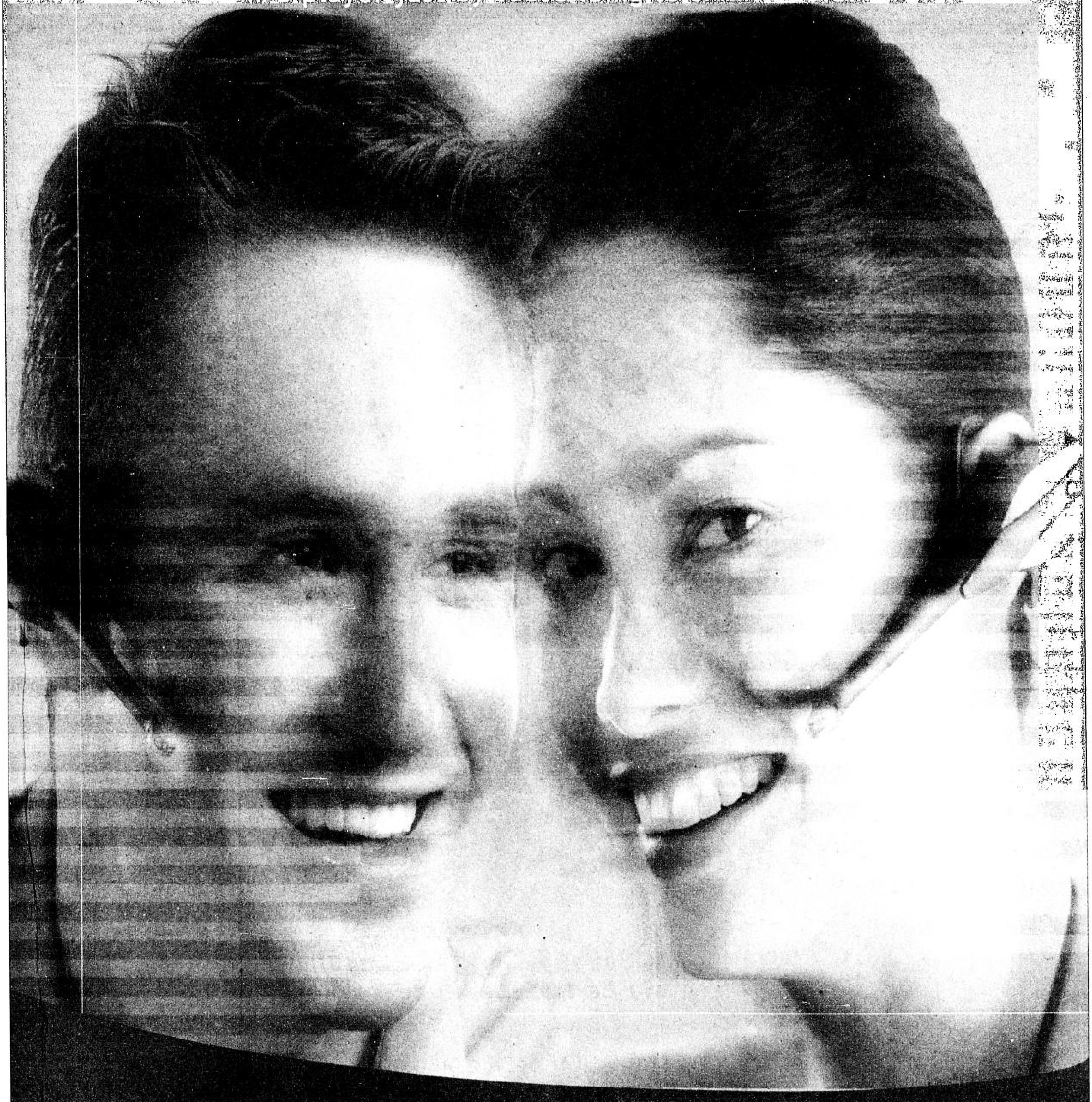
Magellano Big is presented in an elegant dark-gray case, comes with a three-year guarantee, as with all the other collections, and is priced from P899 for the chrome-plated ballpoint pen with satin finish to P1,980 for the chrome-plated or matte rolling ball pen with gold-plated trims.

The "upper class" Ipsilon line has been enriched by the Metallic Ipsilon and Ipsilon De Luxe collections.

The Metallic Collection, with its peculiar shape and youthful design, appeals to different inclinations, classical to young to technological. It comes in irresistible colors, thanks to its warm and brilliant resin in burgundy, black, sea green, bright red and sunshine yellow.

The Ipsilon De Luxe is made of deep black and midnight blue resin with "deluxe" finishes. The clip with its traditional "Y" shape has been embellished with a drop of precious lacquer matching the color of the pen. The cap head and barrel end also change hue according to the pen color. An innovative element is the pen nib in 14K solid gold with a fine and delicate ornament. It offers a complete range of writing instruments, including a mechanical pencil.

Ipsilon ranges in price from P1,600, for the resin ballpoint with gold-plated trims and bordeaux lacquer ring, to P2,795, for the ballpoint with gold-plated trims and black lacquer ring.



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See posters and flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0361. Series of 2001.

Keeping one's faith in God can work wonders

LENT is a time to reflect on the fact that God will never turn us down. As we kneel before the altar, we admit our helplessness, releasing everything to Him. But if the answer does not come now, the Blessed Mother admonishes us to pray incessantly.

This is especially true with readers who have written me about their difficulties: a jobless husband, a business not doing well, a daughter not being able to conceive within 12 years of marriage or a son or daughter reviewing for the board exams, not to mention illnesses suffered by a family member or friend.

I always write back to say that God is merciful and He will provide; they write again to report that their situations have improved.

As time goes by, we begin to realize how bad things are replaced by good ones if we continue to believe that God will provide and He is merciful.

An unexpected miracle

A perfect example of God's mercy was what happened to a reader (RBB from Bicol) who prayed the novenas to Our Lady of Ubanon, St. Philomena and St. Expeditus. She had to raise P100,000 by March 18 to pay back someone on March 19. She went to a family friend who gave her the P100,000 quickly.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Such unexpected miracle inspired RBB to promote the devotion to Mama Mary and the two saints for the rest of her life.

St. Gabriel the Archangel helps

Another story of not giving up on God happened to Judith, a customer of the Angelissimo store in Robinsons Galleria.

Once stricken with cancer, she still wanted to have a child. One day, she was in the tiny chapel of the Angelissimo store and saw posters of St. Gabriel the Archangel saying that one can pray to him for a child.

So she prayed to the angel and asked for his help. The next time Judith went to the store, she was already pregnant and her cancer was cured. She was able to deliver a healthy baby boy whom she named Gabriel.

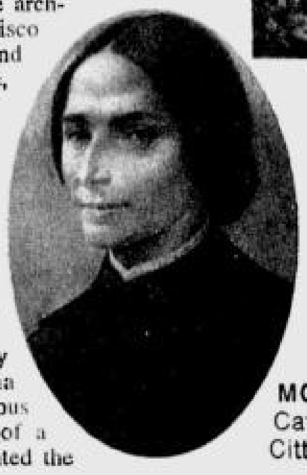
Ursuline Sisters founder to be beatified

GOD will be glorified when Pope John Paul II beatifies Mother Caterina Cittadini on April 29 at 3 p.m. (Manila time). As a thanksgiving for this beautiful event, at least 3,000 people will attend the concelebrated Mass to be officiated by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, at the L'Annunziata Church in Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City.

Saying the Mass with the archbishop will be Bishop Francisco San Diego of San Pablo and Bishop Leo Droma of San Jose, Nueva Ecija.

Mother Caterina was the foundress of the Ursuline Sisters of Somasca. Her mission when she was alive was to provide Christian education to the youth. She put up a boarding house and a school and taught there with the help of her sister Guiditta.

When the latter died on July 24, 1840, Mother Caterina drafted the rules of the religious community with the help of a Somascan priest. She presented the rules to the bishop of Bergamo, Monsignor Speranza, who disapproved it.



MOTHER Caterina Cittadini

"ANG IKALAWANG PAGHARAP KAY PILATO" owned by the Villangca family

Mother Caterina did not see the completion of her work because she died on May 5, 1857. On Dec. 14 of the same year, Monsignor Speranza went to Somasca for the approval of the rules.

The Ursuline Sisters' educational mission has spread to Switzerland, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivia, Philippines and soon Indonesia. Those who are able to obtain favors through the intercession of Mother Caterina Cittadini can write the Ursuline Sisters of Somasca at 52 Magsaysay Road, Bo. San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna or MCPO Box 2509, Makati City.

Prayer to obtain graces

Here's a prayer to obtain graces or favors through the intercession of Mother Caterina Cittadini.

"O God, highest giver of every good, who infused in the heart of Blessed Caterina Cittadini a feeling of deep humility and an indefatigable zeal to work for your greater glory, especially through the Christian education of youth, inspire the Church to recognize and proclaim the saintliness of your loyal servant who worked so much to lead many souls to paradise." (Mention your petition) and say Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

St. Expeditus' feast on April 19

A TRIDUUM of Masses in honor of St. Expeditus will be held on April 16, 17 and 18 at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the St. Andrew Church in La Huerta, Parañaque. The fiesta Mass is at 6 p.m.; there will be no procession.

Fr. Diwane Cacao will hold the fiesta Mass of St. Expeditus on April 19 at 10 a.m. in the Sancti Dei Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, Laguna.

Celia de Guia beeped me to say that her two sons obtained their Canadian visas after praying to St. Expeditus.

68 'carrozas' in Baliuag procession

BALIUAG town in Bulacan is known for its Holy Wednesday and Good Friday processions. At least 68 *carrozas* will participate this Holy Week. Jaime and Caridad San Gabriel and Jovita Galvez will put out the "Paglilibing kay Hesus."

The family of Doña Victoria Tengco will bring out three *carrozas* depicting "The Agony in the Garden," "St. Mary Magdalene" and "Jesus is Put Down from the Cross."

'Mga Kuwentong Mahal' launched

A BOOK featuring the untold stories of people who are devoted to the Crucified Christ was launched yesterday, April 8, at the St. Augustine Church in Baliuag. Written by Jun "KJ" Fernandez and published by Amelita Tengco, the book reveals tales of love, service, dreams, hope and giving one's self to the Lord. Available at Baliuag Transit office. Call, Sonia or Malu at (044) 766-2155.

Priest fetches Mater Dolorosa

AT 8 a.m. on Good Friday, a ritual involving the nailing of Jesus will be held inside St. Augustine Church in Baliuag. Then, the parish priest will fetch the Mater Dolorosa from the house of Nena Cruz where the images of St. John the Beloved, Mary Magdalene and St. Martha, all borne on *carrozas*, can be found.

The images will be brought to the church and positioned facing the crucified Christ. The "Siete Palabras" takes place from 12 nn-3 p.m. The dead Christ or the Santo Entierro will be brought out in a procession in the evening.

Allegro Strings plays for old priests

THE ALLEGRO Strings with tenor Rheez Chua and soprano Jenny Sugay will sing for old and sick priests at the Christ the King Seminary. One event was sponsored by fashion designer Jing Chua. Helping in this endeavor is Boyet Morales who has retired from Solidbank and is now doing apostolate.

Rheez and Boyet work with Sr. Cecilia Calaguas of the St. Martin Foundation. They help mostly poor patients of the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital who mostly come from provinces, are in need of antibiotics and transportation fare. They also help at the pediatrics which oversees poor, sick babies who badly need medical attention.

Those who want to help can write Sr. Cecilia Calaguas, St. Martin Foundation, 127 Catalina St., QC, or call her at 731-7920. Sister Cecilia belongs to the nuns running Siena College.

What will you give up?

NENA Elizalde one time asked me what I would give up for Lent. I said "meat." I ask my readers: What will you give up? May God give you the grace to live simply this Holy Week and concentrate more on helping the less fortunate, all in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

CFM holds Lenten recollection

THE CHRISTIAN Family Movement (Manila District) has chosen a very timely topic, "Spiritual Renewal," for the Lenten recollection which it will hold at the Karel Hall of the San Fernando de Dilao Parish of Paco on April 13 and 14, 8 a.m.-12 nn.

Speakers at the two-day recollection hosted by the CFM Paco unit are Fr. Dominador de Guzman, who will discuss "Revitalizing Family Values" (April 13) and Fr. Freddie Sabado of the Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, who will talk on "God in Government" (April 14).

The Lenten recollection is an annual activity of the CFM Manila District which includes units from Sta. Ana, Pandacan, Trozo, Sta. Mesa, Balic-Balic and Paco, under the leadership of Joe and Zeny Capistrano, director-couple.

Admission to the two-day recollection is free.

"AGONY IN THE GARDEN" owned by Doña Victoria vda. de Tengco

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New Voice holds workshops for exploration

By **Monique Wilson**

ON APRIL 16, the New Voice Company will begin its summer theater workshops. This year is also a significant year as April 16 also sees the launch of the brand-new New Voice Company Actor's Studio at 8020 Tanguile St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

The NVC Actor's Studio is envisioned to be a creative base where professional actors and promising young artists can meet to share ideas, learn artistic skills, hone their craft and enhance creativity. The Actor's Studio is a realization of a dream to standardize training in our country. It is also a place where serious training will be offered regularly and at consistently high standards.

Courses offered this summer are Acting/Musical Theater for kids, teens and adults, Singing for kids, teens and adults, Jazz and Theater Movement for teens and adults, and Directing and Stage/Production Management.

NVC associate artistic directors Rito Asilo and Andrew Vergara, together with resident NVC actors, will handle the Acting/Musical Theater classes. Resident NVC musical director Pete Delfin and Agnes Barredo from the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts and former member of the UP Concert Chorus will be handling the singing classes. Resident NVC vocal teacher Christine Escudero from UST's College of Music and Education will also be giving special voice classes. Josefina Estrella from the University of the Philippines and one of the country's premiere directors will be handling the directing class. Estrella also holds an MA in theater directing from Columbia University, New York City. Roni Genuino, director of Lines Dance Company and one of the country's sought-after dance artists and choreographers, will be giving jazz classes. Resident NVC technical consultant Denis Lagdameo, together with resident NVC production staff, will be overseeing the stage/production management classes. Tami Monsod, one of the country's leading actresses, will be giving special drama teachers' classes and special intermediate acting classes.

Aside from the summer classes, other diverse courses will be offered beginning in June: Alexander Technique, Mime, Intermediate Acting, Spoken Voice, Improvisation, Playwriting, Arts Management, Drama and Education, Arts Marketing, Stanislavski and Meisner Techniques, Theater History, Poetry, Intermediate Musical Theater, Technical Theater, Stage Combat, Toddler Theater and Pilates Technique.

Another important feature of the studio will be the special yearly courses that will be given by skilled international theater practitioners. This will take place at the last quarter of this year. Courses in Physical Theater, Improvisation and Mime to be given by leading London artists are being planned for the year 2001.

The NVC Actors Studio has the following objectives: to nurture a community of theater artists devoted to the pursuit of artistic excellence through training and education; to ensure the quality and international standards of the classes; to train independent, dynamic and progressive artists who will continue to sustain and uplift the theater industry in our country; to provide modern, updated and progressive artistic methods; to work in partnership with other celebrated Philippine and international theater groups in joint training and artistic ventures.

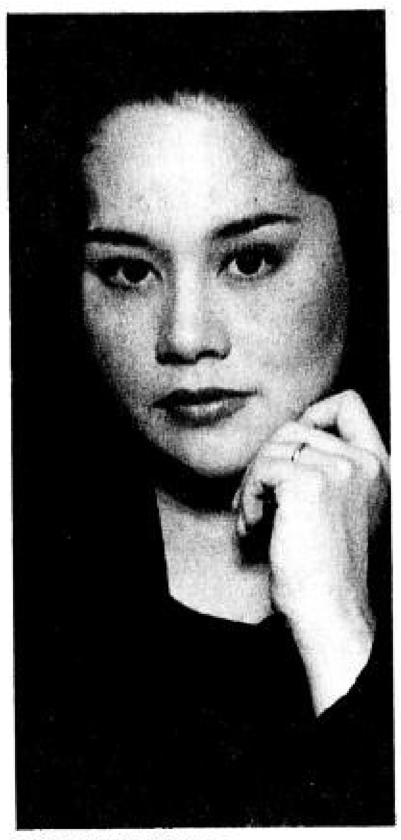
More importantly, the NVC Actor's Studio upholds the following principles: to celebrate the valued principle of integrity in the performing arts; to respect the craft by being devoted and committed to the Philippine theater industry and its future; to uphold the principles of inquiry, independent thinking and creative freedom, and; to protect the importance of discipline in training.

Lastly, the NVC Actor's Studio will promote theater and artistic training as a constructive and powerful vehicle, tool and platform to initiate thought, provoke and inspire change and awaken a sense of social responsibility within Filipino artists.

We envision a premier training ground where students can spread their wings, challenge their creativity, find their true voice and be accessible to the best in the world.

The NVC Actor's Studio will be a place of exploration and discovery. A place where dreams are born and realized—where minds are challenged and spirits inspired—where artists can pursue excellence. A place where serious commitment to theater will see the birth of the future generation of Filipino artists—artists who will be movers and shapers of our country's artistic and cultural life—artists who will keep theater and the arts alive in our country.

The author is currently in London taking up advanced courses in theater at the London Actors Center. In a few months, she will be starting her MA in Drama and Education and another MA in Directing. Call the NVC office at 564-0384 or 564-0380 (telefax), or e-mail nvcpost@hotmail.com.



MONIQUE Wilson

UST holds forum on literature teaching in Baguio

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies will hold its traditional "UST-ingan," a round-table discussion on literary and sundry issues, on April 27, at 1 p.m., at the Villa Romana, Ambuklao Rd., Baguio City.

The forum will form part of the closing proceedings of the UST National Writers Workshop, which will be held starting April 23. Thirteen aspiring writers from all over the country have been granted fellowships to attend the workshop.

The discussion will tackle "New Currents in the Teaching of Literature and Creative Writing." Discussants include Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta, director of the UST-CCWS and chair of the Technical Panel on Literature of the Commission on Higher Education; multiawarded poet and literature professor Cirilo Bautista; and National Artist-elect F. Sionil Jose.

The "UST-ingan" will be the first to be held outside of UST and is open to teachers, students and other lovers of literature in Baguio City and environs. Call Alma Maguilin or Prof. Erli Mendoza at (632) 731-3101, local 8281.

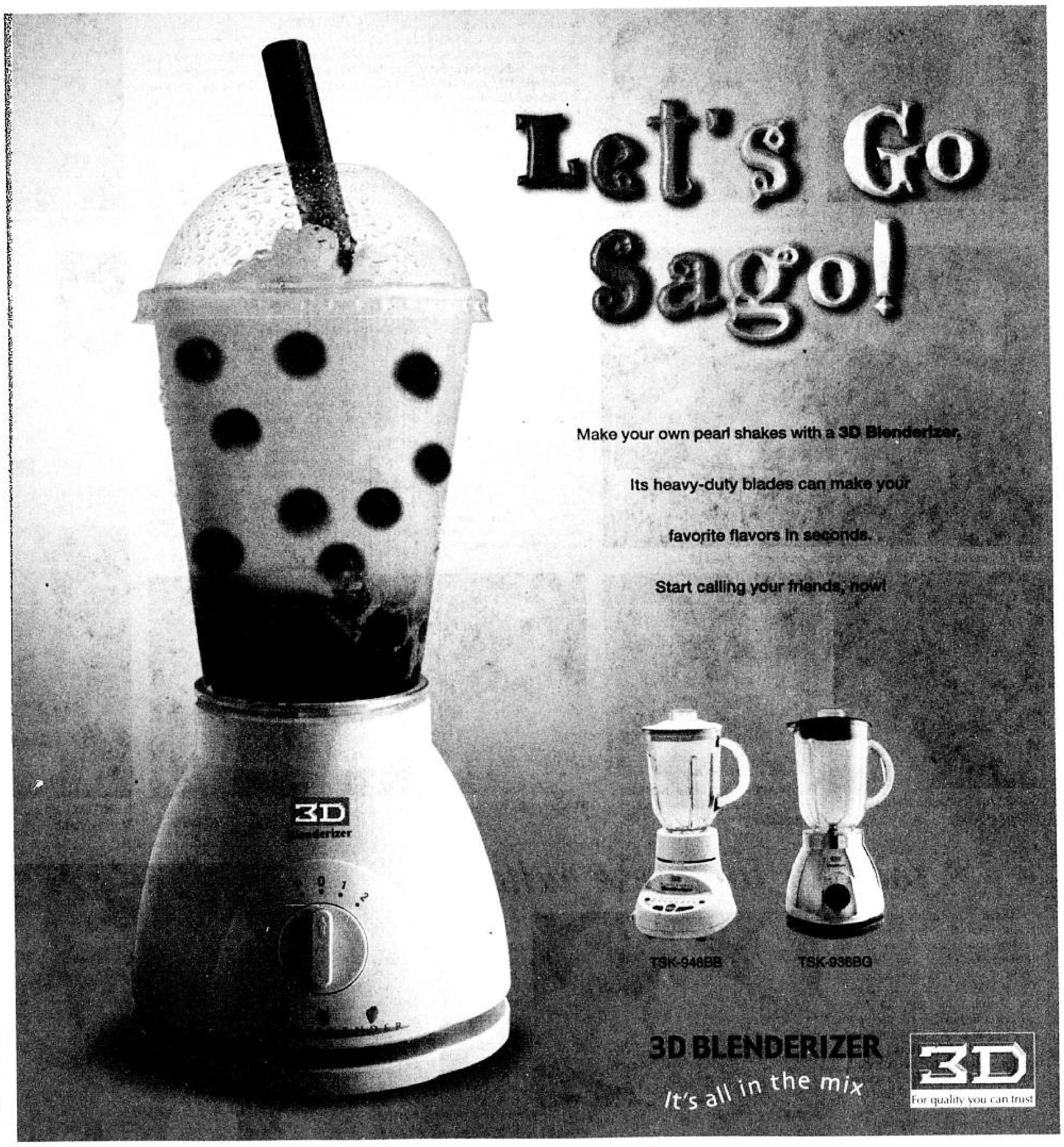
Performing arts scholars stage musical and comedy

FIVE hundred scholars of Center for Arts Foundation Inc. will showcase their musical acting talents as they stage a show dubbed as "Break a Leg." This will be held on April 16, 17, 18, 23 and 24 at the Music Museum.

Participants from the summer workshop will present different musical repertoire, which include Broadway, Pop, OPM and Gospel songs. The theater students will have a musical entitled "Broadway Extravaganza" and a one-act comedy play entitled "Entablado." The kids and the Voice students will share the limelight as they hold their own concert.

Ticket price is at P200. Call the Center for Arts at 411-06-87. The show is directed by Cafi's artistic director Jerome D. Vinarao. The show is being sponsored by Phenomena Music Hall, Informatics Computer Institute, CAL Computer School, Tokyo Tokyo and Gen. Ping Lacson.

Incidentally, the Center for Arts is inviting everyone to join its free Voice and Acting Workshops this summer. This is open to all, ages 6-65 years old. Call 411-0687, 727-8347 or e-mail ctr4arts@edsamail.com.ph, or visit the Cafi office at 90 C 4th St., New Manila, QC.



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Araw-Araw
ILONGGO GRILL

Outlets: Ayala Town Center • CSI The City Mall (Dagupan) • Festival Supermall (Alabang) • Glorietta Quad • Harrison Plaza • Landmark • Megacenter (Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija) • Robinson's Galleria • Shangri La -- Foodcourt Shangri La -- 5th Level • SM Arroceros Manila • SM Bacoor • SM Centerpoint • SM Cubao • SM Fairview • SM Makati • SM Megamall • SM San Fernando (Pampanga) • SM Southmall • SM Sucat • Taft Avenue (Across PGH) Waltermart Calamba • Waltermart Carmona

PASCALE Soriano, Sevrine Mialhe, Barbara Aboitiz

RFM president Gigi Montinola, Bel-Air barangay captain Constantia Lichauco, Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui and Alliance Francaise's Alain Marquer

ALLIANCE Francaise board of directors

Alliance's new edifice, Pakistan's national day and a book on the war

LOLEN Henssall and Stephanie Kienle

FRENCH-FILIPINO beauties performing

BUDJI Layug and Aurelio "Gigi" Montinola III

AMBASSADOR Gilles Chouraqui and Frances Lim

LETTY Syquia, Elisa Baja, Paz Yuchengco and Tessie Luz

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

WITH THE INAUGURATION of the spanking new building of Alliance Française de Manille, Reposo Street in Bel-Air, Makati is becoming quite the in place—what with **Budji Layug**'s gallery and a host of chic restaurants in the same location.

Alliance director **Renaud Fessaguet** beamed from ear to ear on opening night and with reason. A crowd of about 500 guests came to congratulate French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui**, **Aurelio Montinola III**, president of Alliance, and **Alain Marquer**, director of international relations of Alliance in Paris.

The new Alliance offers its clients a more elegant edifice with better facilities: an art gallery, one of the most complete French libraries in Asia, a restaurant worth the name (a certain INQUIRER columnist swears by the cooking), five functional classrooms, a conference room and a 60-seat auditorium for films and lectures.

Costing $1.2 million, the project was completed with the generous help of the French government and major sponsors such as Total Petroleum Philippines, Lafarge Cement Philippines, Suez-Lyonnaise Des Eaux, BNP-Paribas as well as the Montinola and Mialhe families. In recognition, facilities of the building such as its classrooms were named after the sponsors. Kudos to director Fessaguet who brought the project to completion.

* * *

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan celebrated its national day on March 23 at the Grand Ballroom of the Inter-Con with a marvelous spread of curries and native delicacies including a refreshing pure orange drink from their Ponkan oranges called Kinnos that was launched the day before at the Shangri-La with Agriculture Undersecretary **Ernesto Ordoñez** praising its outstanding qualities. For one, the juice is naturally sweet without need of sugar and grown organically. Unfortunately the fruits are only available for the moment at Robinsons Manila, SM Megamall A and at Glorietta 3.

The most popular man of the evening was **Benny Tan**, who received everyone's good wishes and hopes that the BIR would come to its senses. **Narda Camacho**, the moving force behind waste management (Metro Manila Linis-Ganda), also received congratulations for her son, **Manny**, who had given up a lucrative job in the private sector and joined the government.

* * *

Memorare Manila sponsored the launch of **Jose Maria Escoda**'s account of the liberation titled, "Warsaw of Asia: The Rape of Manila," at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati. Most of the guests were survivors of the Battle of Manila during that fateful February. Ambassador **Juan Rocha** in his welcoming remarks said that he hoped the celebration of Philippine-Japanese Friendship Month would be changed from February to some other month. **Baby Orosa** was rather taken aback though that her aunt, **Maria Orosa**, isn't mentioned in the book as one of the victims of the war.

GLORIA Rodriguez, Antonio de la Vega and Alberto Montilla

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

DON Paco Delgado and MTRCB chair Anding Roces

LOURDES Montinola and Vicky Delgado

PAKISTAN Ambassador and Mme. Hasan Sarmad

OLGA Martel and Mme. Kessara Arnold, wife of the Netherlands ambassador

BENNY Tan, Al Casimiro and Ambassador Enrique Syquia

PHOTOS: DENNIS SABANGAN

BENITO Legarda, Ambassador Miguel Perez-Rubio and author Jose Maria Escoda

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A toast to Japanese culture

THREE remarkable events recently marked Philippines Japan Friendship Celebration at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Well-attended and favorably received by the public, Eiga Sai 2001, "Ikebana Visions" and the 4th Asian Cartoon Exhibition opened to an eager public who, for four consecutive weeks, not only got a glimpse but also a very educational experience of the Japanese culture, one of the world's most colorful.

Eichi Suzuki, director of the Japan Information and Cultural Center, Japan Foundation-Manila Office director Motohisa Shimizu, assistant director Hiruwaki Uesugi and Shangri-La Plaza Mall president Fernando Gaspar graced the kickoff celebration at the recent opening of the Eiga Sai 2001 film festival. The festival opened to a full house audience at the Cinema 2 of the mall, now a popular destination for moviegoers who want films other than the usual Hollywood blockbusters being offered in the local cinemas. Opening feature was the acclaimed director Kon Ichikawa's "The Makioka Sisters," a film not only rich in cinematic substance but also Japan's distinct and unique culture. Spotted were film luminaries Raymond Red and Marilou Diaz-Abaya, underwater lensman Marissa Floirendo and a host of dignitaries from the diplomatic community.

At the opening of "Ikebana Visions," Myriam Ara, wife of the Japanese ambassador, together with Beth Day Romulo, Ikebana International Manila Chapter president Kazuko Zenarosa, Shangri-La Plaza VP for tenant management CJ Jesena and Ikebana International. Manila Chapter chair Nonette Hubilla did the honors of the traditional candle lighting ceremonies. The mall's Grand Atrium was filled with beautiful ikebana arrangements by the members of the Ikebana International Manila Chapter—Tita del Rosario, Elma Castillo, Celia Lazaro, Serapion Metilla, among others. Friends and members came in full force like Ms Henry Sy, congressional wife Mila Sumulong, Rose Avancena, Pacita de los Reyes Philips, Glory Desiderio, Julie Villareal, Gloria Ramirez-Garcia and China Go. Highlight was a three-day lecture demonstration on ikebana.

The recent opening of the cartoon exhibition, on the other hand, was graced by the minister and deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Japan, Yoshiyuki Sadaoka, Ms Ara and multi-awarded Filipino cartoonist Roni Santiago who did an on-the-spot drawing demonstration and delighted guests with his interpretation of our present economy. Set up at the Shaw Lobby of the mall, the exhibition showcased 90 humorous and satirical cartoons by Asia's best cartoonists from nine nations. The 4th Asian Cartoon Exhibition will be brought to Indonesia after its 40-day run at the Shang. Viewers can still catch it until April 16.

For four consecutive years since 1997, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and the Japan Foundation Manila Office have been working hand in hand to showcase to a wider public the Japanese culture. The multifaceted exhibitions through the yearly Philippines-Japan Friendship celebration are manifestations of a truly rich cultural exchange.

NONETTE Hubilla, Aurora Villanueva and Kazuko Zenarosa

ROSE Laurel-Avanceña, Aurora Villanueva and Pacita Phillips

EMIKO and Motohisa Shimizu and Japan Information and Cultural Center director Eichi Suzuki

CARTOONIST Roni Santiago showing a finished sketch of comic-strip character Tom proposing a toast for the success of the exhibit.

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall VP for tenant management CJ Jesena, Shangri-La Plaza Mall president Fernando Gaspar and Japan Foundation Manila Office director Motohisa Shimizu

ACE underwater lensman Marissa Floirendo and award-winning directors Raymond Red and Marilou Diaz-Abaya

Shadow puppetry weaves Pinoy super-heroism

(From page E)

Only a couple of years ago, the Anino Shadow Play Collective left its home in the PHSA to base in Manila. Since then, it has been presenting Filipino-oriented plays in institutions like the Museo Pambata, the University of the Philippines (UP) and the Adarna House.

"The nationalistic consciousness has always been strong among us PHSA students," grins Mele Shoyamamo, Anino's other artistic director who's taking interdisciplinary studies in UP. "We've always been taught to ask, '*Ano ang silbi ng* art *sa buhay*?' As scholars, we enjoyed the benefits of a government-paid education. Now, through Anino, it's time to give back to the country and the people."

Folklore, literature and values aren't the only indigenous elements that can be found in Anino. Recreating a superhero epic doesn't necessarily mean resorting to high-tech computer-generated images. One ingenious, quintessential Filipino ability that Mele, Don and company are employing constantly is making do of scarce resources, and creating something beautiful out of the little that is available.

Anino has gone way beyond projecting mere images made from hands on a piece of lighted cloth. Entire storylines are created on canvas or a projected screen that in turn brings depth, texture and dimension to the characters and the theme. As carved diagrams of gods and *engkantos* are flown via string or stick in front of a projector, the background shifts from dazzling white to depressing black. Dragons that eat the sun breathe fire, casting fiery-red sparks to the fleeing crowd.

Magic casts its spell during the show, without costing mega-bucks.

"Our audience always asks us how we do it," chuckles Don. "But all our materials can be stuffed in one *maleta*, which we easily carry home after a performance. The shapes and colorful images are derived from simple things. Like coffee stains, broken glass, marbles and mineral water bottles."

Rarity

Though a strong theatrical tradition in Southeast Asia, shadow play still remains a rarity in the Philippines. "Ibalon" is Anino's first full-length production that is built on a narrative, music and a libretto. Prior to this, the group did half-hour Pinoy-oriented MTVs that showed short vignettes of local traditions and folklore, written for a modern audience.

Word of mouth and steady recognition in the industry have encouraged Anino to aim for three productions a season. In the pipeline are tie-ups with Musical Theater Philippines and Dulaang Talyer.

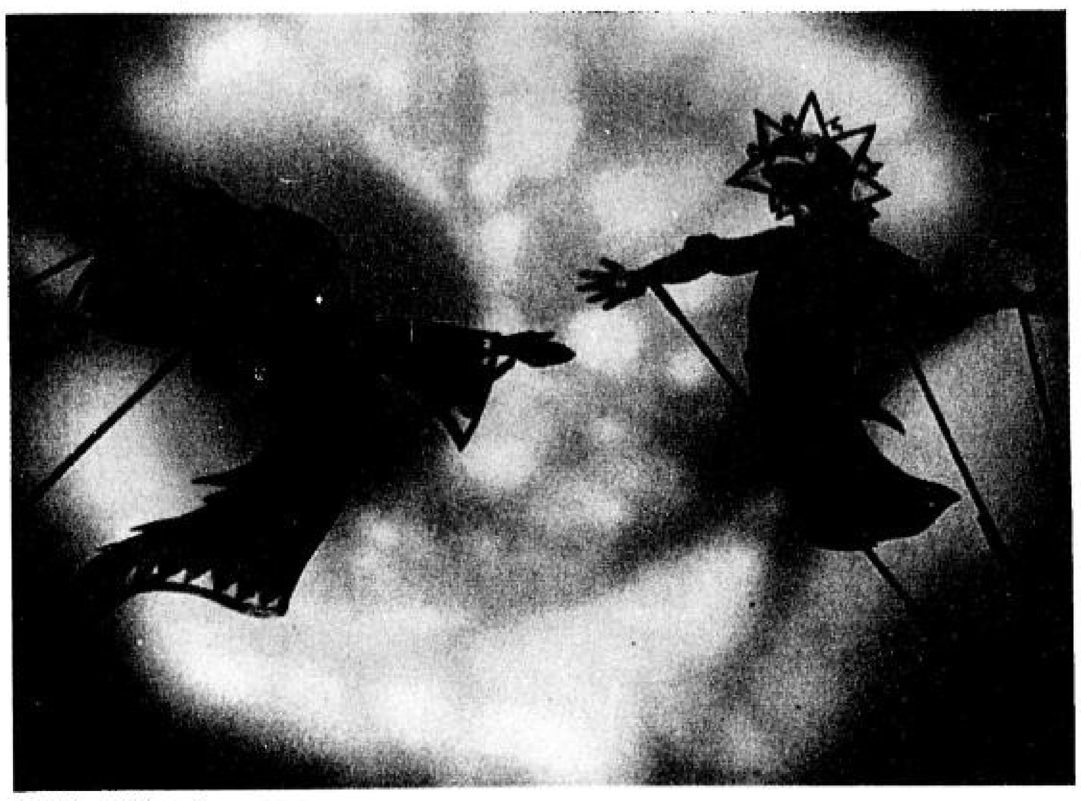
Backing up its limited funding are projects for TV shows like the travel-related "Lakbay," ABS-CBN's classroom-on-air "Sineskwela" and the "Tining ng Bayan" commercials for SkyCable's Pinoy Blockbuster.

Ultimately, like true artists, Anino's people do it as a labor of love. Most of them have "day jobs." Don teaches part-time at the Ayala Museum and the Casa San Miguel, the arts center in Zambales. Company manager Marc Cosacos does storyboard and other commercial design work for advertising agencies.

Along with Mele and Kerima, they go back a long way, from their PHSA high school days to finishing art-related college courses in UP.

And these barely twentysomething pioneers of the shadow tradition intend to go even further. The local festivals in Dumaguete and Bicol, of course, have already invited them for performances. So did the organizers of the International Shadow Theater Festival, which will be held in Greece this June.

And then there's the important process of mentoring the new recruits who, in a few years' time, might take over the reins. The group believes that shadow play will always have an audience, in spite of competition from animé and Hollywood.



"**SUN** and Moon"

> Anino has made X-Men out of Ibalon and the epics

"**BUKIDNON** Trinity"

Chief Justice keynotes UP CMC Alumni Fellowship

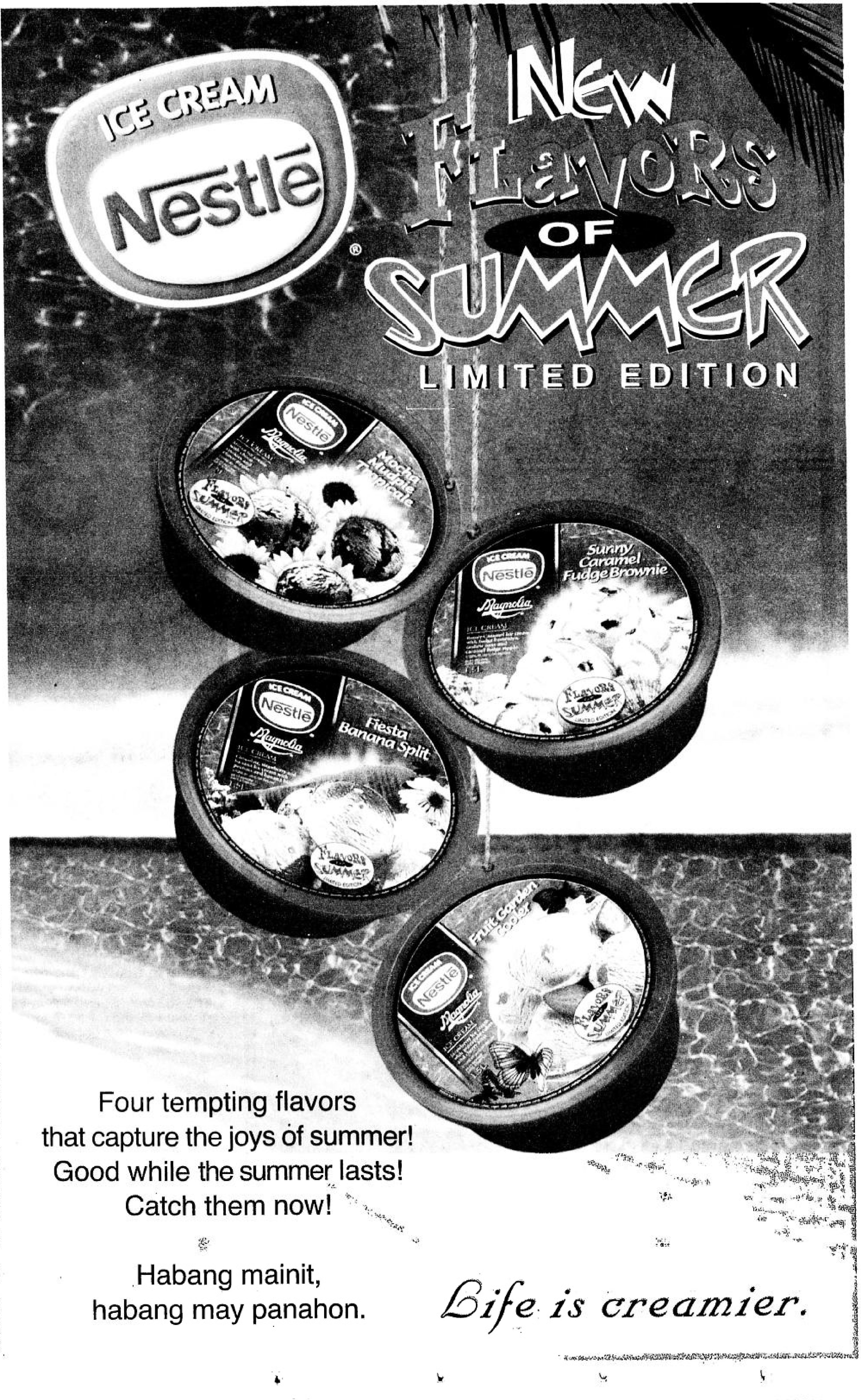
THE UP College of Mass Communication (CMC) will hold its annual fellowship and reunion today at 3 p.m. at the CMC Auditorium, Plaridel Hall, UP Diliman, QC, with Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as guest of honor and keynote speaker .

The event will be highlighted by the launch of the Gloria D. Feliciano Scholarship Fund to be led by Joy Lumawig-Buensalido and Cora de Jesus Tan, past presidents of the UP CMC Alumni Association. Dr. Feliciano founded the Institute of Mass Communication and later served as college dean. She was also renowned as one of the country's foremost scholars in communication.

The newly elected officers of the UP CMCAA will also be inducted in simple ceremonies to be officiated by the Chief Justice. This year's officers are Jingjing Villanueva Romero (president), Marissa Gerardino Bugante (vice president internal), Ambet Rivera Nabus (vice president external), Sochie Cabiles Fernandez (assistant vice president), Prof. Armi Vallejo Santiago (secretary), Prof. Rosa Maria Tapang Feliciano (treasurer), Dr. Aleli Agoncillo Quirante (business manager), Rome Pepito Roque (PRO) and Prof. Andy G. Sevilla (assistant PRO). Committee chairs are: Rona Sagles Gregorio (Overseas Alumni Relations), Cora Tan (Scholarship), Chuki Feria-Miranda (Advocacy), Prof. Joey Lacson (Continuing Education), Ernan Paragas (IT), Ivy Cosio-Bautista (Fellowship), Louie Keirulf (Ways and Means) and lawyer Chito Avecilla (Legal).

The UP CMCAA Council of Advisers is composed of Dean Ellen J. Paglinauan, UP Vice Chancellor Tessa Jasmines and Joy Buensalido.

The UP Madrigal Singers will also render a special performance at the event, which is free and open to all UP CMC alumni. Call 433-7895, 920-6863, (0918) 904-2415 or (0917) 812-9149 or e-mail jingjingevr@hotmail.com. Visit the UP CMC website at www.upd.edu.ph/~cmc.



Four tempting flavors
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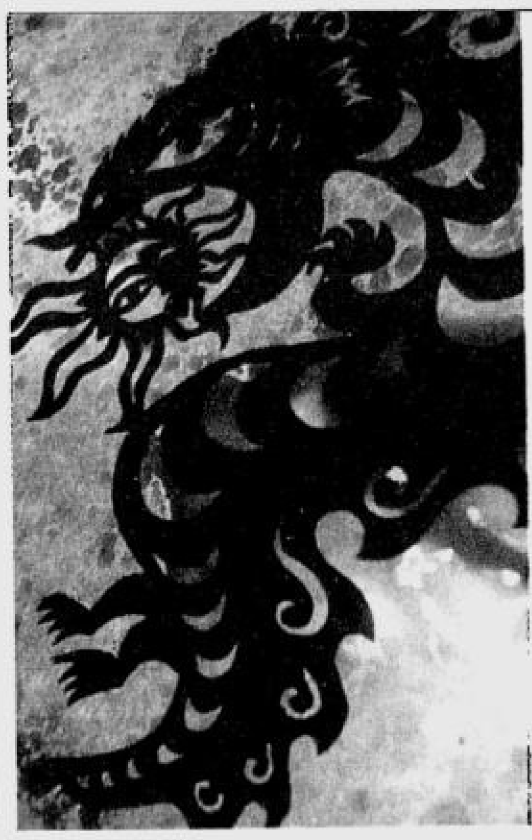
Habang mainit,
habang may panahon.

Shadow puppetry weaves Pinoy super-heroism

By Cora Llamas



"BUKUNAWA"

AN EVIL behemoth tramples the land, squashing homes and buildings, its warped mind totally bent on destruction. Then, just when the helpless crowd feels that all is lost, a mighty hero appears to save the day. Faster than a speeding spear and more powerful than a rampaging river, he crushes the monster and hurls it away, far from the populace.

Nope, this hero is not a caped, spandex-clad member of the Justice League of America or a renegade mutant from the X-Men. And, though he uses a bit of magic and a lot of supernatural amulets, he's not the sword-wielding Akira or the flame-bearing Recca either.

The city under siege, after all, is neither Metropolis, Gotham, nor a futuristic space complex. The battle happened in Ibalon, which was what ancient Bicol was called centuries before Magellan set foot on our islands.

And neither did the hero, Baltog, slink back into his cave or his mild-mannered identity after the crisis. He remained visible to the people, teaching them the right way to till the land and grow the crops.

It's a different kind of superhero that the Anino Shadow Collective will be presenting to today's kids in its one-hour-and-a-half play, "Ibalon," on April 18 and 19 at the Museo Pambata.

"These are realistic superheroes who had concerns for everyone," points out Don Salubayba, one of Anino's two artistic directors. "Baltog focused on agriculture to improve the lives of the people. The hero who came after him, Handiong, was a people organizer who formed the army of warriors that wiped out the rest of the monsters. Bantong did the same."

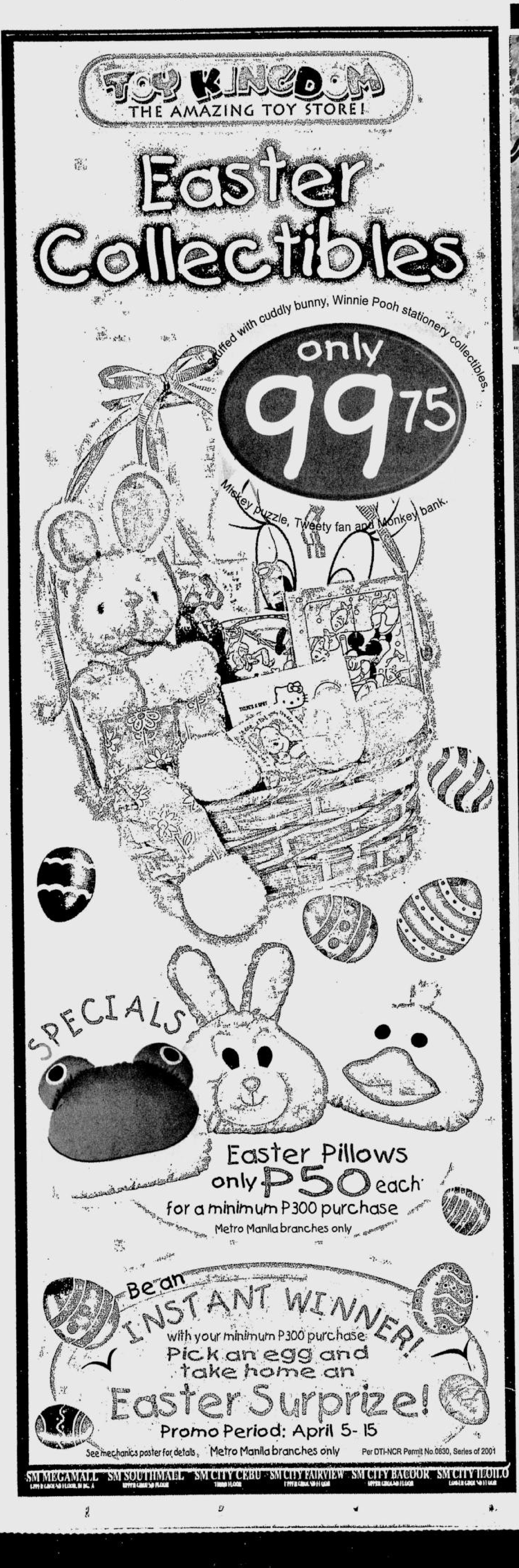
The villains aren't your regular fire-breathing, jaw-breaking space behemoths of comicdom. Look a little closer, and they'll seem to represent present-day Goliaths like social injustice, environmental despoliation and political corruption.

What's more important, though, are the lessons that the children-to-teenage audience will remember afterward. Librettist Kerima Tariman, daughter of impresario and INQUIRER music writer Pablo Tariman, used allegory to firmly but entertainingly drive them home. The monsters always boast that they have absolute rights to the natural resources—the air, land and water—of Ibalon. By the time the clash of the titans ends, the children are made to realize that they—the children—are their true owners, but with all the benefits and the responsibilities that that implies.

Expected

The environmental and social issues as well as the nationalistic thrust are to be expected. The Anino Shadow Play Collective, which now holds office in a UP Village home shared by its leading members, traces its roots to the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA). Originally just part of the visual arts curriculum, shadow play—which combined puppetry with the interplay of lights and shadows—became a popular activity that soon got the school invited to tour the local regions. A CCP Outreach Grant Program helped establish the group into putting up the shadow plays.

SHADOW/ p.E7



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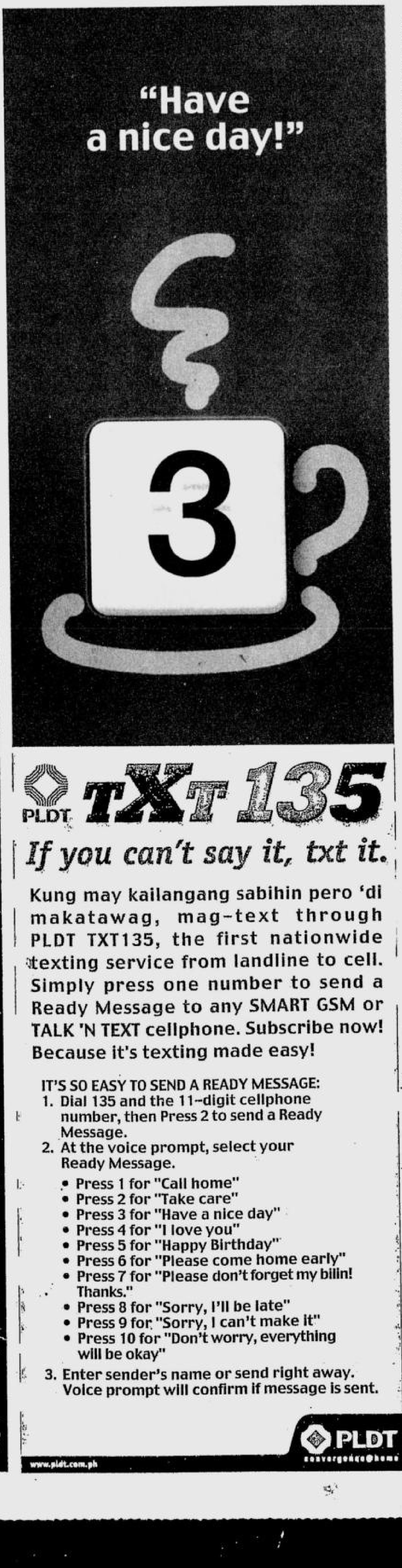

"Have a nice day!"

3

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